A GUIDE
TO
BEDER

NAWAB FRAMURZ JUNG BAHADUR.

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A GUIDE

TO

BEDER

WITH

HISTORICAL NOTES.

BY

84649

NAWAB FRAMURZ JUNG BAHADUR,

First Taluqdar, (Collector,)

BEDER DISTRICT.

X-d 79

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PRINTED AT THE LAWRENCE ASYLUM PRESS, MOUNT ROAD.

1894..

DEDICATION

TO

His Excellency

Nawab Vikar-ul-Umera Bahadur,

Prime Minister to His Highness the Nizam,

The benevolent Master and Patron

of the Author.

This attempt to record the history, the

Architecture and the Memorable

events of the Ancient City of Beder

IS

With every Sentiment of respect

and regard

INSCRIBED BY THE AUTHOR.

BEDER,

25th November 1894. FRAMURZ JUNG.

PREFACE.

A long felt want has hitherto existed regarding a work, which could be used as a guide-book on the ancient historical fact and ruins of Beder.

As the Bahamani and Bereed dynasty of kings, were the ones, who, centuries ago ruled over Beder, I have endeavoured to give as full an account of them as possible in this little work, which is confined exclusively to their operations in Beder which I was able to collect from Ferishta and other manuscripts.

The account given in Ferishta, regarding the Bereed dynasty of kings being a very meagre one, I, ever since my transfer here, in August 1893, from Warangal district, have spared no pains whatever, in gathering, as much information as I could possibly collect, from the ancient Urdu and Persian manuscripts, which I procured with the greatest difficulty from some of the oldest inhabitants of Beder.

The reason, why I experienced such great difficulty in getting the use of the Ancient Manuscripts, is, because the parties, to whom they belonged were led away by the idea, that they would never be returned, as I was informed, that some officers, who were here, before me had actually deprived, the lawful owners, of their books, relating to Beder antiquity. The chief information, which I gained from old manuscripts, was, that, in connection with the Bereed dynasty of kings and the ancient Killadars, (fort-keepers) of Beder.

I offer my sincere thanks to those old families, who have been kind enough in placing the old manuscripts, relating to ancient Beder, at my disposal. This expression of thanks would not be complete, without an acknowledgment of facilities granted to the Author in consulting the work of Mr. Wilmot, Nawab Syed Hussain and Lieutenant S. E. Macpherson.

From want of time, I have been unable to give an account of the Ancient Mahomedan Saints, who are held in great reverence, both by Mahomedans and Hindus, and the old Mashaik families of Beder; but, should this little book be appreciated by the Public, I will not fail to do so, in my Second Edition. This subject will be dealt with, in my Urdu History of Beder, which will appear shortly.

I trust, this little book will meet with the approval of the Public, as I have not spared my humble endeavours, in making it as interesting as possible.

BEDER,
25th November 1894.

FRAMURZ JUNG.

A GUIDE TO BEDER.

The District of Beder is bounded on the North by Nandair District, on the East by Mehdak District, on the West by the Nuldroog District and Ambah Taluq Bede District (Mominabad), on the South by Gulburgah District and Athraf Baldah (Crown Lands). Within the area of Beder District the Paigah Taluqs of Narainkheid, Hasnabad, Bhalki and Lohara intervene.

The District of Beder comprises seven Taluqs, *viz.*, Beder, Koheer, Oodgher, Rajura, Nilanga, Aurad and Janwara. Two of the last mentioned Taluqs are Sarf Khas (Crown Lands). The superficial area of the five Government Taluqs is 1682·93 square miles, and that of the two Crown Lands Taluqs is 310·73 square miles, making a total of 1993·66 square miles.

The Head Quarters of the District is Beder. Beder is a Canarese word which means bamboo. Tradition says that Beder had its outer walls of heavy bamboo fencing, from which its name is derived. It is imagined that the surrounding tract of Beder was once covered with thick bamboo jungle.

Beder is situated in the centre of the three principal divisions of His Highness the Nizam's dominions, *viz.*, Maratwada, Canara, and Tellingana. The Maratha country extends in a North-westerly direction of Beder; Canara

country extends in the South-westerly direction of Beder; Tellingana country extends East and South-east of Beder.

The population of the Government villages of this district is 388,382 and that of the town of Beder itself 11,815. The town of Beder is situated in latitude 17° 54′ 57″ and longitude 77° 34′ 21″.

It is the Head Quarters of the first Taluqdar (Collector). Beder is situated on an elevated and healthy plateau standing 2,330 feet above the sea-level and 500 feet higher than Hyderabad. The ancient name of Beder, according to Ramayana and Mahabarata, was Vidarbah and the name of its king (at the time) who ruled over the Deccan was Rajah Bihdoor, the illegitimate son of Rajah Pand, one of the ancient kings of Beder.

In Professor H. Wilson's works he speaks of Vidarbah as a country of considerable extent and power, at various periods. It is also mentioned in the Ramayana and Puranas amongst the countries of the South. The author of Amil-i-Salih says that Beder was the seat of the Government of the Rais of the Deccan.

Daman, the beloved of king Nala of Malwa, whose mention has been made in the book Nal-o-Daman, was the daughter of Bheem Sain the Rajah of Beder. Tradition is not uniform in the measure of importance it assigns to it as a city of the Warangal Empire previous to the Mahomedan Invasion.

Its latter civic story is set forth in its architectural topography as by a plain legend. The story of the spot

further relates that the hamlet, which still clings to the ravine side within the fort by the small tank, was the first nucleus as it is the last relic of the ancient city.

That the huts of a few cow-herds there had attached to them a temple sacred to Mahadeo, which up to date stands on the top of the tank situated in the direct northern corner of the fort. That the temple acquired eminent repute and was visited by the Rai of Warangal and thenceforward attracted a rich annual concourse of devotees.

Walls arose around the village, it obtained privileges and flourished into a great city whilst the Rais of Warangal yet maintained their extended dominions.

After the fall of the Dynasty of the Rais of Warangal and when anarchy prevailed in the Deccan the Khalijia family obtained possession of Beder and upheld it till the Bahamani Dynasty came into power.

Alif Khan, eldest son of Ghias-ud-Din Toghlak of Delhi besieged and took the city in the year 1322 A. D. and at the time it gave its name to a province so extensive as to have a crore of Rupees assigned as the amount of its revenue by Ferishta.

It thenceforward became an appendage of the Mogul Empire and formed a province of the Kingdom of Gulburgah.

In 988 Hijri, when the kingdom of Bahamani had its fall, Ali Bereed the 3rd King of the Bereed Dynasty having dismantled the ancient buildings and domes constructed in 962 Hijri, the surrounding walls (extending

for 6 miles) and 35 massive bastions of the present town of Beder.

The wall is surrounded on all sides by a broad fosse excavated in rock.

The remaining flank runs along a precipitous verge. There are thirteen gates to the surrounding walls *viz.*, (1) Gadgee Darvaza, (2) Tulghaut Darvaza, (3) Pathal Nugree Darvaza, (4) Mungulpett Darvaza, (5) Fatteh Darvaza, (6) Shah Ganj Darvaza, a stone in the pavement of which is held sacred by the Hindus, (7) Carnatic Darvaza, (8) Kalliani Darvaza (9) Delhi Darvaza, (10) Hanmanth Goodee Darvaza, (11) Yeramullee Darvaza (12) Mahday Darvaza, (13) Dholun Darvaza, out of which the last mentioned seven gates belong to the Fort ramparts as well. Out of the above-mentioned gates eight are at present completely closed up. The following are the translations of the inscriptions on different gates. (1) Shah Ganj gate. "This gate was completed on Wednesday the 11th Shawall 14th auspicious Julus year corresponding with 101 H, during the Subedarship of the most humble of human beings, Mukhtar Khan-ul Hussaini *alias* Subazwaree in the reign of the most exalted of the Jemsheed Pomp, Lord of the extensive army, Aboo Mohee-ud-Din Aurungzebe Bahadur, Conqueror of the world, The great Hero of the Crusades; may his country and kingdom last for ever."

Tulghaut Darvaza.

2. The translation of the inscription on this gate is the same as that of the Shah Ganj, but it was completed on Wednesday 2nd Zikad, 1082 Hijri, 15th year of the reign of Aurungzebe.

Mungulpett Darvaza.

3. By the command of the most exalted, the most powerful, His Royal Highness Nawab Nasir-ud-Dowla, Asaf Jah, may his country and wealth last for ever. This gate was completed on Sunday the 11th Rabi-us-sani 1266 Hijri, in the 22nd year of the reign of Humayun, during the Taluqdarship of Hasan Iradut Bunda-Khan Nishan-Shums-ud-din Khan *alias* Aban Sahib.

"Glory to God."

Fatteh Darvaza.

4. The translation of the inscription on this gate is the same as that on Shah Ganj and Tulghaut Darvaza, but it was finished on Friday Rabi-us-sani 1002 Hijri in the 14th year of the reign of Aurungzebe.

There were in the City wall 6,010 battlements, but many have fallen and plain walls have been substituted for them. The traveller should commence his circuit by ascending the Shah Ganj gate by two flights of sixteen and ten steps, this brings him to the top of the rampart, the inner glacis of which, with the walls, is 50 feet broad and might be made into a beautiful walk. The wall is stopped with battlements which are in many places 8 feet high, and at every 600 hundred feet or so is a platform for cannon. From the Shah-Ganj going westwards, the first large bastion you arrive at is the Futteh Boorj or Victoria Bastion. Here there is a monster gun made of the blue metal called Bangri.

It is 20 feet, 4 inches long, the muzzle is 1 feet, 10 inches in diameter, and the orifice is 9 inches. There is an inscription in gold letters beautifully written of seven distiches,

which says that the gun was made in the reign of Kassim Bereed Shah in the month of Mohorrum 988 Hijri.

There are two other couplets lower down on the gun, and still lower is a line which says that the ball weighed 5 mans (Maunds) and a half of a seer, and the powder, one maund and 10 seers, and if you wish it to carry further, add 10 more seers.

From the Fatteh Boorj gate to the Shah Ganj Boorj gate is 1,350 feet. The said gate's arch is 24 feet high and 12 feet 8 inches broad, and from the top of the arch to the top of the bastion is 7 feet. At the top of the gate it is 19 feet broad. The battlements here are 3¼ feet high and 2½ feet broad. The ditch is here 16 feet deep, and the wall except near the gateway is 16½ feet high ; but close to the gateway on the right of it, it is 23 feet, 4 inches high. Further to the west there are 3 more guns with inscriptions, 2 having the date 1135 A. H. The name of Mahomed Kassim appears upon them.

There is a small gun lying near them with a rod projecting from it.

In another bastion there is a gun 4½ yards long with a bore of 9 inches in diameter. In another bastion there is a gun 11½ feet long, the muzzle having a diameter of 2 feet and 3 inches with a bore of 14 inches, with an inscription which says that the name of the gun is Fatteh Lashkar and that it was made in the time of Mirza Shah Mahomed, whose title was Bereed Shah, with date 988 Hijri.

A traveller from Hyderabad enters Beder by the Fatteh Darvaza (gate), situated in the south of the town. The town of Beder is divided at right angles in four parts. In the centre of the town is a round black tower called Chowpara 71 feet high which was constructed several centuries ago, and was used in the Hindu period as Deepmandal for lighting Karthic lights. Close by this tower to the east and south there were two wells belonging to a Hindu temple of which no traces whatever have been left. The date as to when the Chowpara was built is not known. There is a serpentine flight of narrow steps leading to the top of the bastion. The additions to this structure are now utilized for the Police Inspectors Kucharee.

The road from this structure going southwards leads to the locality of the town called Pansel Tahlim. Coming from Fatteh Darvaza gate to Chowpara tower you will find a grand Mosque called Jumma Musjid to the left, which is a grand piece of ancient architecture. This Musjid was built by Kassim Bereed Shah II. on the death of Ali Bereed. On the same road the traveller comes across a Hindu temple of Govind Maharaj, at which place itinerant mendicants are daily fed free of cost, and grand feasts are held twice a year. The locality situated to the north of Chowpara is called Manior Tahlim. A short distance from Chowpara there is a road at right angles which leads to Mybliioob Ganj, Cheetah Khana and Shah Ganj gate. Mybhoob ganj is the chief market of Beder and the Cheetah khana is a building where the cheetah's belonging to His Highness the Nizam are trained for hunting pur-

poses. Further on to the right is an archway which is termed Dargah Kaman. Not far from this archway is the Shah Ganj gate which leads to the Travellers' Bungalow. To the west of Chowpara the road leads to the locality called Siddik Shah's Thalim. In this locality is situated the dwelling houses of Akbar-ud-Din, Ali Khan, and Ghulam Mahomed, Jagirdars. This locality has a great number of houses occupied entirely by Brahmins. In the same locality there is a road at right angles, which leads to the Police Superintendent's office, Police Quarter Guard and Police Parade ground. Going from Chowpara on the left of the Travellers' Bungalow, the traveller will observe a magnificent ancient building called Madrassah (College) of Mahomed Gawan, Prime Minister of Mahomed Shah (Bahamani) which is 200 feet long from east to west and 170 feet broad from north to south, the height of the building is 58 feet including the parapet. It consists of a spacious square with arches all round it of two storeys divided into convenient rooms. There were 2 minarets to this building. In the year 1066 Hijri, one of the minarets, in which a quantity of gunpowder was stored, was struck by lightning. An explosion took place which threw down the minaret and destroyed that part of the building. The other minaret is 190 feet high and covered with encaustic tiles, some blue and others green and yellow. About half the screen remains, splendidly inscribed with sentences from the Koran in large kafic letters the effect of which is chaste and superb. This building was completed in 876 H. in the latter part of the reign of Mahomed Shah Lashkiri

the twelfth king of the Bahamani Dynasty, and it took two years and nine months to build. Regarding the date of construction of this grand edifice the translations of the couplets mentioned in Ferishta is as follows :—

This grand college of Mahomed Gawan. It is just as sacred as Kaba is to the righteous.

Lo ! Divine acceptance of it.

Indicating date of completion from the Koran verse.

"O Lord accept this from me."

876 Hijri.

This college had a library of three thousand (3,000) volumes during the time of Mahomed Gawan.

Opposite the Madrassah is the Beder Kazi's dwelling house. A short distance from the Madrassah on the left is located the Beder Civil Dispensary. Further on to the right the traveller will come across the ruins of the house in which Nasir-ud-Dowla the grand-father of his present Highness the Nizam was born, and in which Secunder-Jah lived for three years. A little further from this place the traveller will find a large gate (surmounted by minarets) which was built to perpetuate the memory of Syed Nemuth-Ulla-Wali, Karmani, a great saint of Kirman in Persia, whose grandson, Syed Shah Khalil-Ulla-Buth-Shikan, came to Beder during the reign of Sultan Ahmed the 9th king of the Bahamani Dynasty, and made him his disciple.

Further on to the right the District Doctor's quarters are located, and behind which is situated the Tulghaut gate. Further on there is a road to the left running parallel to the Fort trench which leads to Multani-Shah's Dargah, which is

held in great reverence by the Mahomedans. Close to this Dargah is Chandah-Shah's Arabic and Persian school.

To the east of Chowpara the locality is called Noor-Khan's Thalim.

In this localiay are dwelling houses of Khaja Hussaini and Bandagee Hussaini, who are the descendants of Banda Nawaz, the well-known Mahomedan Saint of Gulburgah.

From this road there is another road which leads to Pathal Nugree locality.

The Dargah of Shah Abul Faiz Min-Ullah, a Saint and grandson of Khaja Banda Nawaz of Gulburgah, is situated to the south-east of the town, the road lies along the east and south sides of the city and through the Mungulpett suburb, coming out by what is called the Habshi's guard, a position which has been fortified. Close to this is a grove of trees, where the tombs of the saint and his family are. It is *de rigueur* to take off your shoes, and as the ground is very rough, this does not add to one's comfort. The Dargah has its south gate handsomely adorned with blue encaustic tiles, and the door itself and the stones to which it is hung and on which it closes are painted green. Within are three tombs with silk coverlids. A number of coins are let into the stones near the door and into the pavement near it. The dome is 80 feet high, and south of it are two tombs, which are said to have been brought from Aurangabad, and are those of two sons of Nizam Ali, called Mir Hisámu-ud-din and Mir Riza Ali. Beyond is a *Chabutarah*, or terrace, in the centre of which are two stone *Kishtis*, or receptacles, which are, at

certain times, filled with food for the poor. There are several other tombs here, and to the west, that of Nizam Ali's wife, Ashūra Bigam with curious lattice work.

The dome of Ali Bereed's tomb is situated about a couple of miles to the west of the town. In order to reach the terrace on which this Mausoleum stands, you pass through a richly ornamented building, called the Nakkar Khanah, or music gallery. In the lower rooms a guard of soldiers was kept, and in the upper music used to play when a personage of rank approached. The Mausoleum itself, which is about 150 yards beyond the Nakhar Khanah, is a perfect gem of art and is so symmetrical that it does not appear to be as lofty as it really is. The square on which the dome rests is 76 feet high, and the dome itself 64 feet, but there is an ornament on the top about 10 feet high, so that the total height is 150 feet. The whole is of granite, admirably put together. Each side of the square base is perforated with an arch 32 feet high, and ornamented inside with beautiful inscriptions in gold and blue, and with devices of flowers. The lower part of the dome also is elegantly carved. In short it would seem that every thing that art and money could do has been done for this Mausoleum. Close by are 60 low tombs which are said to be those of Ali's wives, and a strange legend adds that they were all killed by his order in a single night. No doubt Ali Bereed met with terrible reverses. Having offended Shah Tahir, the envoy of Burhan Shah, who was sent to congratulate him on his accession, he incurred the resentment of that monarch, and in the war which followed, he was divested of almost all

his territories. The grandson of Burhan Shah, Murtaza Nizam Shah, besieged Beder, and would have taken it, but for assistance rendered to it by 'Ali' Adil Shah of Bijapur. It is possible that during these reverses 'Ali' Bereed may have ordered his wives to be slain, but more probably these tombs are those of children and relatives, who died during Ali Bereed's long reign of 45 years, or subsequently. Further to the west are many other tombs and domed buildings, but none comparable with the Mausoleum of 'Ali' Bereed.

The translation of the Persian verses inscribed in the Bereed dome is as follows :—

1. If any of my friends or relatives ever visit my grave
2. And inquire from my dust as to my whereabouts,
3. If they where to sift the dust of the whole world,
4. Fruitless will be their search to find me :
5. I have gone to such a place from which I shall never return ;
6. I have not the faintest hope that any one will ever visit my grave.
7. All my limbs and flesh will be reduced to dust,
8. And not a particle of it will be left,
9. Alas ! ever for many centuries after my death,
10. Many will have their pastimes in this extensive world's garden,
11. And will some day or another come across my monument,

12. I have passed the whole of my life-time in luxury and ambitious projects,

13. And have trodden over the graves of thousands,

14. Which person in this world ever expected to live for ever?

15. Therefore you shall not see any one live to eternity.

16. Those who to-day tread this earth with a haughty and proud air

17. Little know that very shortly the dust from their bodies after death will be blown up like a whirlwind.

18. O wicked man your body will crumble into the same kind of dust!

19. Like finely powdered collyrium when put into a box for use.

20. The architect of this beautiful and magnificent dome

21. Was king Bereed the good dispositioned and fortunate.

22. This edifice has been named "the dome of splendour."

23. Ali Bereed (Emperor) was the great upholder of religion.

24. His soul only passed away from this vile world

25. To enter a more peaceful home.

26. The date of his death is taken from the following words.

27. "Contented in heaven." 987.

To the right of Ali Bereed's dome, visitors will come

across another, (which is not so elaborately constructed) with Kassim Bereed's tomb. There are 18 other domes, (containing the tombs of the Bereed dynasty of kings) three Mosques, one large Eadgah, a large well, and three old garden sites, situated to the north of the Bereed domes. To the south of the Bereed domes, can be seen those of Zainudin Shah, Kunji-Nishin, Makhdum-Shah Khadri, and a Mosque. In the low lands there are two other domes, one small one, and a small Mosque. One of these large domes (which is situated in the east) contains the shrine of Syed Sadat, which is held in such veneration both by Mahomedans and Hindus, that, on every Thursday, a large concourse of people assemble there to perform their vows, as well as bathe in the reservoirs, which are supplied with the tepid and mineral water oozing out from the adjoining spring, which is believed to be very effective in curing skin diseases. In addition to this curative property, it is the common belief that any person (if he ask in true faith) will obtain every thing he desires by immersing himself forty times in this water. This spring, Hindus call Nanak Jirah. The following is the translation of the inscription directly above the cistern.

"This bath was constructed by Shafa Khan in the year 929 H., in the reign of Sultan Shah-bud-din, son of Mahomed Mahmud Shah Wali-ul-Bahamani."

There is another spring (to the west of Syed Sadat's Durgah called Papnass) where the Hindus resort to perform their daily ablutions. Near this spring is a small temple of Mahadev.

To the south-east of the town, there is a third spring, in the Farahbagh garden. A niche cut out in the rock (from where the spring emanates) in which is placed the form of the Hindu god Narasimha. The water flows four feet deep through a tunnel, 112 yards long, and 12 feet high, and the devotees, who resort to this place have to wade through this water and are obliged to carry a light with them through the tunnel, in order to make their way to the niche already spoken of. There is a Jatra (fair) held here annually when several poor people are fed by the Hindu priest in charge of the temple. At the head of the spring there is a Mosque, which was built by the Mogul Emperor Aurungzebe. The following is the translation of the inscription on the Mosque.

"As king Mohee-ud-din Aurungzebe Bahadur, Conqueror of the World, Crusader, the Pillar of religion, One helped by God, One who is determined to destroy the infidels and tyrants, and propagate the Moslem faith, so the most humble of human beings, Mukhtar Khan-ul-Hussain Sabz-wari the Subedar of Zufferabad Beder, demolished the temple and commenced this mosque and garden on 24th Rabil-ul-aval during the 14th year of the reign of Aurungzebe in 1082 H.

The mosque was completed by the grace of God in 1087 H., which date is calculated from the following words.

"Temple converted into a mosque by the grace of the Almighty."

The pleasant spot was named Farah Bagh and entrusted to the care of Najm-ud-din the dearest grandson of

Nizam Kumr-ud-din Mahomed. The inscription within the mosque is as follows :—

"There is one living God, and we worship none but Him."

We took possession of the temple and in its place built a mosque. There are several excavations in the rock (situated to the north of the spring) which were utilized by the African Soldiers of Ancient kings for gymnastic and other purposes.

The tombs of the Bahamani kings stand to the east-north-east of the city, and are twelve in number, the most important of them are ;

1. Sultan Kulim-ulla.
2. Sultan Wali-ulla.
3. Sultan Mahomed Shah.
4. Sultan Mahomed Shah Lushkari.
5. Sultan Nizam Shah.
6. Sultan Humayun Shah.
7. Sultan Ala-ud-din.
8. Sultan Ahmed Wali-ul-Bahamani.

Besides these, there are some other domes and mosques. The above mentioned domes are situated within the boundaries of the village of Ashtoor.

The largest dome is that of Sultan Wali-ul-Bahamani, the first Bahamani king, who moved his capital from Gulburgah to Beder in 1432 A.D. His mausoleum resembles those at Golkonda and Gulburgah. It has a square basement measuring 50 feet each side. The wall is 12 feet thick, and in it are four arches 27 feet high. This basement is

surmounted by a dome, the top of which is 120 feet from the ground. The dome and walls were inlaid from top to bottom with stones of various colours on a gold ground and mixed with Mother-o'-pearl; owing to the lapse of time these ornaments have becoming impaired, and the inscriptions have unfortunately faded. Ahmed's son Ala-ud-din, rests in a mausoleum of similar dimensions, but far less richly ornamented. In it there is a slab with an inscription in Persian and Marathi, in which occurs the name Kadirkhan, and the date 840 H. equivalent to 1437 A. D. This is probably the record of a grant of land to Kadir for taking care of the mausoleum, which is continued up to date to his successor.

The inscription on the intrados of the dome shows the genealogical chart commencing from Mahomed the Prophet, which is written as follows :—

1. Mahomed the Prophet.
2. Ali son of Talib.
3. Khaja Hassan Buseri.
4. Khaja Habeeb Ajami.
5. Daood Jai.
6. Maroof Karkhi.
7. Siri Sakti.
8. Khaja Junait Bugdadi.
9. Sheik Ahmed Gizali.
10. Sheik Abdulla Yoface.
11. Noor-ud-din-Namul-ulla-Wali.
12. Shah Khalil-ulla-But Shikan.
13. Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali-ul-Bahamani.

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A short way outside the Patalnagree gate, a traveller has to descend a ghaut road to the low country, where a mausoleum of Shah Kalil-ullah But Shikan Iconoclast, the spiritual guide of Sultan Ahmed Shah Bahamani, is situated. The building stands on a terrace 8 feet high and consists of a hexagonal building of stone, 60 feet in height the inner diagonal of which is 66 feet. This base is surmounted by a dome 45 feet high. There are 3 galleries outside the dome, the lowest being 15 feet broad, the second very narrow, and the third quite open. The building is very symmetrical, but there is no inscription, except a verse from the Koran. In the same enclosure are two other mausoleums, of which one is superbly ornamented.

Athanasius Nitikin, a Russian Armenian, who in 1470 visited Beder as a merchant, gives in his diary an interesting description of the country and its capital. "There were villages at every coss. The land was laid out in fields, and the ground well tilled. The roads were well guarded, and travelling secure. Beder is described as a noble city with great salubrity of climate, and the king, Mahmud Shah, was a little man 20 years old with an army of 300,000 men well equipped. Artillery is not mentioned, but there were many elephants, to the flanks of which scythes were attached in action, and they were clad in bright steel armour." When Aurungzebe invested the place in 1656 Beder was described as 4,500 yards in circumference, having three deep ditches 25 yards wide and 15 yards deep, cut in the stone.

Monsieur Thevenot, who visited Beder in 1667, says: —"It is a great town, it is encompassed with brick-walls

which have battlements, and at certain distances towers; they are mounted with great cannon some whereof have their mouths three foot wide. There is commonly in this place a garrison of three thousand men, half horse and half foot, with seven hundred gunners; the garrison is kept in good order, because of the importance of the place against Deccan, and that they are always afraid of a surprise. The governor lodges in a castle without the town, it is a rich Government, and he who commanded in it when I was there was brother-in-law to King Jehangeer, Aurungzebe's father; but having since desired the government of Brampour, (which is worth more,) he had it, because in the last war, that Governor had made an army of the king of Viziapur raise the siege from before Beder. Some time after, I met the new governor upon the road to Beder, who was a Persian of a good aspect, and pretty well stricken in years; he was carried, before whom marched several men on foot, carrying blue banners charged with flames of gold, and after them came seven elephants. The governor's palanquin was followed with several others full of women, and covered with red serge, and there were two little children in one that was open. The bamboos of all these palanquins were covered with plates of silver chamfered; after them came many chariots full of women; two of which were drawn by white oxen, almost six feet high; and last of all, came the waggons with the baggage, and several camels guarded by troopers."

Sir Richard Temple, who visited Beder in 1861, says "The bastions of the fortress had a rich colouring subdued

by age, being built of the red laterite of which the hills are there formed. The style of the mosque was grand and severe, quite different from the polished and graceful manner of the Moghul architects in later times. The chief object of beauty in the place was the college. The exterior of the building had once been covered with exquisitely coloured glazing in floral devices, of which there was still much remaining to delight the spectator. This building is perhaps the finest of its kind surviving in India."

Fort of Beder.

The Fort of Beder is situated on the north of the town and on the north-east angle of the tableland composed of laterite. The construction of the fort was commenced by Raja Ambar Sing for which workmen of different professions were called from distant countries. This fort was once the Jageer of Raja Bedur, which was granted to him by Raja Pand of Delhi. The town and fort of Beder was populated during the administration of Raja Bedur about five thousand years ago. The circumference of the citadel is 4,500 yards, the fort is surrounded in some parts by three fosse and the rest by a double trench, Sultan Ahmed, the 9th king of the Bahamani dynasty built the strong rampart of the citadel in the year 835 Hijri and named the town Ahmedabad after his own name. This fort is one of the greatest and most indestructible monuments of the Bahamani period, Mahomed Shah Lushkari, the 13th Bahamani king added to the fort some gates and bastions, who ascended the throne in 867 Hijri, Muktar Khan fort keeper plated and bossed in the iron all the gates of the

fort in 1802 H.; He also repaired certain portions of the rampart. The fort has been in disrepair since 1152 H. The fortifications, still perfect, are truly noble, built of blocks of laterite dug out of the ditch which is very broad and has a peculiar mode of defence met with nowhere else, two walls of laterite, the height of the depth of the ditch, having been left at equal distances between the fausse-braye and the counterscarp all round the western and southern faces of the fort. There are large bastions 37 in number at frequent intervals in the rampart and the curtains are strong and lofty. Inside the fort the royal palaces overlook the walls; and their present ruins attest their great extent, power and magnificence.

Sultan Ahmed Shah engaged in hostilities with Sultan Hoshang of Malwa, who had invaded the Deccan kingdom and defeated him. On his return Ahmed Shah founded the city of Beder according to an ancient manuscript called *Sultan surley* in Maratti. The tradition states as follows: When Ahmed Shah arrived close to Beder he found its vicinities filled in the bamboo jungle, which was beautiful, the air was of proverbial virtue, and the site of the fort was well calculated for enlargement with strength. Accidently the king saw a fox while hunting; the fox turned upon and fought with the king's hounds in whom high admiration arose for the tract which gave birth to such rare courage; the king pursued the fox on horseback with his retinue, all of them got so tired of the pursuit that they halted under a shady tree and looked out for water. They found an old shepherd seated and enquired of him where

water could be procured. He pointed out a spring which was covered by a stone. All who were present were unable to lift up the stone, which was ultimately miraculously removed with the stick by the old man on the pleading of the king himself, they all partook of the water although the spring was of small dimensions, yet the quantity of water was not exhausted. The king was astounded and asked him his name, and inquired as to what existed on the spot previously; the shepherd replied my name is Bumgoonda and said, there stood a small village called Beder. The king expressed his wish to lay the foundation of a fort, the shepherd politely and with due reverence acceded to the wishes of His Royal Highness; after this the king laid the foundation of the fort on an auspicious day. The shepherd, as a return for his miraculous deed of shifting the stone from the spring implored of the king, that a temple and village should be erected and populated in the fort in his name. The king complied with the shepherd's request and named the spring Bumgoonda.

The entrance gate of the fort is called "Sharza darvaza" on the buttress of which, a pair of lions are carved, hence the name of *sharza* is given to the gate; the translation of an inscription on this gate is as follows:

This gate was completed on Wednesday, 7th Rajab auspicious 26th Julus year, equivalent to 1094 Hijri, during the subadarship of the most humble of human beings Mukhtar-Khanul-Huseni *alias* Sabzwari, in the reign of Jemsheed pomp, lord of the extensive army, the victorious Mohee-ud-deen Mahomed Aurungzebe Bahadur the Con-

queror of the world, the great hero of the Crusades, may his country and kingdom last for ever and ever.

Further from "Shurza darvaza" the traveller will pass through an archway having a small elegant building on the top of it, where to the present day nowbat (music) is played five times daily. The exterior of which is covered with enamelled tiles, on which are flowers on blue, yellow and red grounds.

Advancing further the traveller comes across the gate called Gumbuz darvaza, which is the largest gate in Beder, the top of which consists of a spacious dome, below which in the pavement will be found a stone, which is held in veneration by the Hindus. With regard to these sacred stones found in the pavement of this and Shagunj gate, tradition points as follows: Damaji Pant a *sadhu* (ascetic) naib of Mangalvied near Pandarpoor, who had misappropriated certain Government money which was entrusted to him for the purpose of feeding the needy during a famine was tried and imprisoned in the fort. The deity at Pandarpoor (a place of pilgrimage in the Bombay Presidency which in olden days belonged to the Beder provinces) came in a disguise of Vityadhed (pariah) and by paying a fine to Government released Damaji Pant, who from that day became an ascetic. The two stones which are at present imbedded in the pavement of Shagunj and Gumbuz darvazas, are held sacred by the Hindus, owing to the sandals of Vityadhed (who was really the deity of Pandarpoor in disguise), having worn them away.

Close to the Gumbuz darvaza is the Rungeen Mahal.

This building faces N. N. E. The lowest storey is now filled up with *debris*, and you ascend a number of steps into what is now the ground floor. You then pass through a courtyard in which is a basin of water 10 feet by 7 feet, in front of a room with an open façade 28 feet long and 16 feet broad, called Shah Nishin. This most curious room has evidently been the mandapam of a Hindu temple. It has four pillars and 8 pilasters, quite black with age, and most curiously carved in the Hindu fashion at the top. These carvings were carved with gilding, which was white-washed some years ago. Over the arch in the centre is written a Persian couplet expressive of adulation, the translation of which is as follows :—

"My eye is the seat of your throne as well as the easing place of your thoughts.

I pray, my king, may not this place be without you."

From this you pass into a square dark room about 8 feet each way, which opens into a room 15 feet by 14 feet, where the idol of Devi was placed. There is a small basin of water in the centre, where the idol was washed, and there is a window at each side of it to give light for the ceremony of the pradakshina. Over these windows are now written Persian sentences formed of mother-o'-pearl and gold ; the translation of which is as follows :—

As the mother-o'-pearl shell shines in its interior
Owing to the presence of a pearl.
So my longing eyes are reflecting thy beauty,
This garden has been decked for you.
Welcome to the throne of your peaceful mind.

This was the palace of Raja Protap Rudra, before the Mahomedans conquered the city. The south window looks on the wall of the fort, the nearest part of which is 84 feet from it; there is also a fine view of the Madrassah, which is due south. The couplets inscribed over the northern doorway extol the beauty of the place and commence with the Divine name, the translation of which lines is as follows:—

"God is great. The great King Humayun of the Bereed kingdom, the king of the Countries, the most reverential of pious congregations, the victorious by the help of the Almighty.

Every precious pearl which is in love with its mother-o'-pearl shell brings love into thy court for a heave offering.

The man who passes by the door of your mansions is suddenly enamoured with them, as if love were streaming out of them."

Above these rooms in the next storey is a large and comfortable sitting room, whence it is customary to see the monkeys fed. There are a colony of black-faced baboons who, when sitting are 2 feet 9 inches high. They have an allowance settled on them, which probably dates from the time of the old Raja's, of Rs. 60 a month, which is expended in feeding them with bread made of the Jawari or Holcus Sorghum. As nobody is allowed to kill them they have multiplied to an incredible number and pillaged all the country round of grain and fruit. These detestable creatures are not only mischievous but dangerous, as has been shown on many occasions, and particularly on one when H. H. Nawab Nizam Ali Khan was most severely bitten at a great feast

he was giving at Beder. In the midst of the entertainment, although there were thousands of people about, and the city was illuminated, a large baboon came and bit H. H. Nawab Nizam Ali Khan so severely that he lay ill four weeks. However, the spectacle of seeing them fed is a very curious one. Great panniers of bread are brought on to the terrace a "ao, ao" (come, come) is raised, whereupon swarms of huge baboons come bounding along the roofs of the houses, and descending perpendicular walls with incredible agility. It is said that one of these apes ascended the minaret of the Madrassah, but in decending he lost his hold, and had to spring down one hundred feet on to the roof of a house, through which he passed, but was transfixed on a piece of wood and killed.

In continuation of the Rungeen Mahal on the west one will pass along through many other rooms of the same building which are extensive and most solidly built. The front portion of this building which is surrounded by high walls is now utilized as a district jail, and the back portion is to a great extent deserted. On the wall of the jail building is written—Malik Shah Amarzan re-built this in 1037 Hijri.

At a short distance from the Rungeen Mahal, another huge gun can be seen on the Sath Gazee bastion. This gun is 15 feet long. It is rifled and made of bangri metal. It has fallen on its side and points N. E. by E. It is really beautiful, the dark blue metal being polished like a mirror and covered with inscriptions in letters of alloy.

In going to it you pass over lines of ruined buildings, and among them a magazine, in which it is said that Meer

Moghul Ali Khan Killadar, was confined by his brother Nizam Ali. Proceed now south and pass the Takht Mahal palace, a vast pile of ruins in which are plenty of serpents. It looks upon the Thal Ghat, or "Low country," for the Bala Ghat, or "Upper country," upon which the city of Beder is built, advances like a ridge to within half a mile of the Thal Ghat. Proceed now south west to the Gagan palace, which was the King's private residence, and to reach it, pass through the Tir-Kash Mahal which is a building four storeys high, where the king gave public audience. The Taluqdar holds his office at the Gagan Mahal. A little to the north of the Gagan palace is a Mosque of the Bahamani time, with several inscriptions by Aurungzebe. There is here, too, a Sarai, built by Nizam Ali, when he marched against the Mahrattas in 1203 Hijri.

Physical Features.

The eastern portion of Beder, conterminous with Kowlass, shares the extensive trappean ridge whose superficial and constitutional characters have been detailed in the memoir of the latter. The crest of that vague entablature determines over granite in the Kowlass province, its base extends to the western bend of the Manjera, which courses through the valley of junction formed by the supervention of a deposit of iron clay which constitutes the south-western portion of the Beder district. The northern quarter of the province, as well as the broad tracts of the river valley to the east and south-east, are of plains and low ridges continued without alteration of character from the trappean

region; but the aluminous mass presenting peculiar features of configuration, requires exact notice.

The portion of the aluminous deposit included in this district is bi-partite. The eastern tablet, upon which Beder stands, is included in a loop formed by the Manjera, here defluent to the south-east, with its tributary the Narinja which pursues a parallel course in the opposite direction, while the western wing is diffusely spread within a patent angle which arises from the forking of the latter stream with the Choolky, a similar feeder which joins it near Bhalkee, and shares its debouchement into the main river.

The Beder tablet is of an irregular oblong figure 22 miles in length and 12 in extreme breadth, while its area does not exceed 190 square miles. The exterior edges form a slight by elevated ridge around the disc of the plateau, whence a system of drainage, a little precipitous, trends for the most part inwards to a central longitudinal valley, and the stream accruing from the concurrent lapse of the water-courses escapes at the south-west angle of the entablature, where it adds its volume to the Narinja, which divides the whole deposit in twain. The iron surface of the plain, though little amenable to the ordinary meteoric influences, yields to the lightest current of perennial flow, and the ceaseless thread of fountains and the constant rills distilled from the rocky terrace-eaves, aided by the trenchant ministry of monsoon torrents, sulcate the plain on both sides towards its central depressed axis, for the most part cleaving it to the subjacent trap; and the high and various enamelling of the tilled fields and the generous

meadows borne by the vales which are thus evaded, to the rich soils of the rock beneath, contrast strikingly with the sere furrows and adust terraces of the brown vesiculated iron rock, which is on some of its slopes intolerant of vegetable life, and when not comminuted by natural agencies nor compelled to softness by human labour is for the most part waved over by the most arid gramineus.

The outline of the table-land is so serrated by aqueous action as to resemble a jagged inwrought fringe, but contemplated at the distance of a few coss, its flanks seem to run from point to point along the horizon with the sustained elevation of sheer ramparts, the façade presenting taluses of unexampled uniformity in slope and proportional altitude beneath exact mural crests,—while no facial irregularities obtrude in palpable relief, and the distinctive causes which produce these are entirely latent. This smooth semblance of unbroken continuity arises from the equal level which is characteristically maintained by the summits of the rugged spurs and dentations of the laciniated cliffs. When a brook erodes a mural valley, the superficial plane remains intact; when the abscission of some portion of the plateau has been effected the detached monticules remain precisely coincident in level with the table-land, and stand secure from further degradation as soon as their isolation is completed. Besides the varying cast and accidental deflections of the drainage, which, notwithstanding the approach to superficial concavity which has been noticed, contribute to laciniate the edge of the tablet, an eminent and distinctive source of facial demolition is to be traced to the interior hydraulics of the rocks. The alumin-

ous mass, varying in depth from one to four or five hundred feet, rests immediately upon greenstone; and the less pervious trap opposes a flow by which the body of water, filtered through the bibulous clay-bed, is arrested and forms a pregnant nursery of springs whose natural level of efflu-ence is the line of contact of the two rocks along the base of the cliffs of the plateau, and a living spring in that propitious site quickly frets out for itself a dashing orifice, macerates and unbinds portions of its rocky tube, and upon their decadence cleaves them from its channel, till a rift like a straight inverted funnel rises above the fountain of erosion. Welling canals and rivers of water are intercepted as the chasm extends, and are appropriated by its watercourse; while feeding brooks, of importance proportioned to the breadth of inclination gained upon either side lapse into and subsidize it.

The rift dilates to a ravine, the ravine expands to a vale, and the fountain, labouring upwards to its spring with the same genius as when it played in the foreground of the cliff, discloses behind it a valley of pregnant moulds tinged with iron loams, and irrigated by endless watercourses. At the village of Kanapoor, some miles from Beder, the fort, which has unfolded valley and picturesque glen, may be seen yet receding in its ruinous path. A precipitous chasm is chiselled up to the gushing vent, and, from the angle at which the brook now flows, it promises to pierce its inexorable way for some miles further into the tablet. Near Beder, in a shadowy and many flowered recess, a similar rivulet of full and constant volume issues

from a lofty chink which marches it to an unexplored distance within the womb of the rock. This affluent fountain having attracted a decree of Aurungzebe for its tutelage, consecration and adornment, a high arch of masonry has been built to some distance within its fissure, and a channel and reservoir suited to its emergence been provided. A mosque is raved by it as it emanates, whence it is borne to a cascade which a flight of steps accompanies to a second plane, it is thence conducted prone by the relic of a pleasure dome, and after a fresh precipitation finds its way through a rich and odorously-gardened nook to the plains below. The character imposed upon the streamlet by this elaborate guardianship is sufficiently striking when its career is compared with that assumed by the free fountain of Kanapoor. There is yet another spring which has claims to notice in this vicinity. It gushes from the base of the cliff which is domed by the sepulchres of the Bereed Kings where an umbrageous mango grove spreads under the tomb of Syed Saadut. It has long been guarded by fakirs, and resorted to by devout Moslems, and visited by curious Europeans as an unquestionable example either of a tepid spring of natural attributes or an ardent memorial of the power of the adjacent saint. It is in truth a sweet and clear fountain, admirably protected from external impressions and indicating the exact mean temperature of the earth from which it springs. A cliff of iron-clay-and lithomarge rises over it for 50 feet laden with impenetrable foliage, while its chink is spanned by a small arch of stone, and the stream received by a reservoir and conveyed out-

wards by a tunnel something after the fashion of the more important font of the Emperor. Before sunrise on the 14th of November, when the thermometer in the air was 57, in the water within the rift it rose to 83, and neither at midday or evening was there any perceptible variation. Under the cold pulses of the sky, however, before the dawn the basin tested by the senses maintains its repute, and the heated wayfarer, who anticipates a spring of comparative coolness within the grove at noon, concedes to it his equal credence. The elevation of this tract being supposed to be more than 2,000 feet above the sea in north latitude 17° 54′ 57″, the mean temperature due to it according to Humboldt's table is about 74°, but the indications of this font are exactly corroborated by one or two other deep-seated springs similarly defended in that line. In physiognomy and constitution the western tablet is the counterpart of that which has been described. The surface of both plateaus present wide swathed plains, shadowed in their depressions with profound tamarind and mango groves, either waved over by light dry grasses quick with deer herds, and nearly exempt from jungle, or mottled by every species of culture to which artificial irrigation is unessential. The iron-clay must everywhere be pierced nearly to the subjacent trap to meet the constant springs, so that the wells in the vicinity of the edges of the tablets are of extraordinary depth, and sugarcane and garden lands alone in favoured sites permit of their expansive draught. The stream valleys and the tracts of mixed soil, around the façades bear prodigally the fruits and

grains, the canes and vines, and every form of vegetable produce which belong to the climate of the Deccan.

Rivers.

The river Manjera rises in the Taluq of Patoda, in the District of Nuldrug, and passes through the District of Bhir, Nandair, Indore, Melduk and Beder, where it combines with the Tirna. Its course through Beder District is 93 miles, commencing from the village of Gour in Nilanga Taluq to Cheekoorty in Janwada. It falls into the Godavery afters a circuitous course of 387 miles. This is the chief river in the district. Its course is minutely serpentine, as is the manner of streams when they permeate facile valleys of erosion. Its bed is at the depth of from 20 to 40 feet below the superficial level and the extreme of its greatest and least rapidity are marked by a bare rocky bottom with collection of boulders about 2 lbs. in weight, in a bed of course pebbles occasionally approaching to gravel. During the rains it is a full and torrent river, at some points half a mile in breadth and of dangerous impetuosity.

The river Tirna rises near the village of Tairkheda in the Nuldrug District, enters the Beder District at the village of Hataya in the Nelinga Taluq, and ends in the same district at the village of Tairkher after a course of 72 miles, of which 42 miles are in Beder district.

Nerinja is the third stream of importance in the district of Beder, which divides the tablets of Beder and Kullianee. It cleaves through the laterite and runs upon a bed of green stone like the Manjera. From the constitutional

characters of the rocks which compose the country broad alluvial straths accompanying both streams. Its course extends over 61 miles.

Bidri-ware.

The damascened work, known as the Bidri-ware, is a declining industry which deserves support to save it from extinction. This peculiar artware derived its name from the town of Beder, its original home, which, according to tradition, was founded by a Hindu king of the same name, four centuries before the Christian era. It is said that one of the Hindu kings of Beder invented the manufacture of Bidri-ware, who used the articles to hold flowers and other offerings which he daily presented to his household gods. Considerable improvements were introduced into the manufacture by his Hindu successors; but it attained its present state of excellence under the Mahomedans, who, wherever they went, not only gave great encouragement to the indigenous manufactures, but also imported from other parts of India, as well as from the chief seats of Mussalman civilization in Western Asia, new arts and industrial crafts, so, like many other handicrafts of India, it declined with the downfall of the Mahomedan empire, although it attracted the notice of men like Dr. Heyne, Dr. Buchanan Hamilton, Captain Newbald, Dr. Smith, and others. Its decline as an industry was so complete that, in the "Oudh Gazetteer," the most comprehensive work on that province yet published, no mention is made of Bidri-ware among the manufactures of Lucknow, although for more than a century it flourished most in the capital of Oudh. Much was done to encourage

and promote this manufacture, so far as the European market was concerned, by the department of Agriculture and Commerce in the North-Western Provinces. The exertions of the Department were greatly aided by the Exhibition at Melbourne, where Indian artware occupied a prominent place, and by the local exhibitions at Simla, Calcutta and Jeypore, where Bidri-ware found an extensive sale.

The most ordinary articles of Bidri-ware are *Hukkas* or smoking bowls, *Surahis* or water goglets, *Tookdans* or spittoons, *Pandans* or betel cases, *Abkhoras* or drinking cups, flower vases, tumblers, plates, trays &c.

At present the four chief seats of Bidri manufacture are Beder itself, Lucknow in Oudh, Purniah and Murshidabad in Bengal. The mode of manufacture is very nearly the same in all places. The first process is the preparation of the mould. A quantity of clay, or very fine dust made into a sort of paste by mixing with it fresh cow-dung, is put on a rude lathe, and when dry turned into the required shape. A layer of wax and oil boiled together is then put upon it, and the whole thing when dry is again turned in the lathe in order to make the surface even and smooth. It is next covered with another layer of clay, and then allowed to dry. Two openings are then bored in the mould when it is subjected to a gentle heat, which bakes the clay and causes the wax to melt and run out through the holes, leaving a vacant space inside for the reception of the fused metal. This is an alloy of copper and zinc, the proportion in which each metal is used varying in different places. At Beder

the proportion, according to Captain Newbald, is one of copper to sixteen of zinc, while, according to Dr. Smith, it it is one of copper to four of zinc. At Purniah the proportion observed is 9 of the former to 176 of latter. In Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's time the several ingredients used were zinc 13,360 grains, copper 460 grains, and lead 414 grains, Dr. Heyne also saw the use of lead in forming the composition. He states that ordinarily the manufactures take at time 16 ounces of copper, 4 ounces of lead, and 2 ounces of tin, which they melt together, and then after adding 16 ounces of zinc to every 3 ounces of alloy thus formed melt again. Lead is not used now, and tin still forms a component of the alloy at Murshidabad. At Lucknow, besides the usual copper and zinc, steel powder is added to give additional strength to the compound. The proportion is copper 4 ounces, steel powder 4 ounces, and zinc 12, ounnces. Thus, no hard and fast rule is observed in the proportion to which the different metals are used; the manufactures of each place employ what they have found most suitable from long experience. To mix the two metal now generally used, *viz.*, zinc and copper, two earthen crucibles are made, one large and the other small. A thin coating of fresh cow-dung is put upon them, both inside and outside to prevent them cracking when put on fire. The zinc is put in the larger crucible and the copper in the smaller, and both are then put into a small pit, where a slow fire, generally of cow-dung cakes, has been made. They are then covered with fresh fuel, and the heat gradually increased with the aid of a pair of bellows or by blowing

through a bambco tube. When the metals have fused, the melted copper is poured into the crucible containing the melted zinc, and the heat now applied with a renewed force, which causes the metal to unite and to form the compound of which Bidri-ware is made. Dr. Buchanan Hamilton states that to prevent calcination, a mixture of beeswax and resin, obtained from the *Sál* tree (Shorea robusta), is thrown into the crucible. When throughly fused with each other, the molten alloy is poured into the vacant space inside the mould through one of the two openings described above. When cool the rough model of the required vessel thus formed is taken out by breaking the mould. It has now a dull leaden appearance, is hard, but can be easily worked in a lathe to make the surface smooth and even. This smelting, moulding, and turning up to this point are done by a set of people generally of the brazier caste, who next pass on the vessel to the designer to trace upon it patterns of flowers and other ornaments. The designer first smears the vessel with a solution of sulphate of copper, to give the surface a black colour. This operation assists him to see distinctly the patterns which he etches on the smooth surface with a small steel point, and the carver to follow the tracings made by him. The vessel next passes on to the engraver or carver, who, following the lines traced by the designer, cuts them deep, and scoops out the designs with delicate, finely-pointed chisels of various sizes, worked by a small hammer. The surface now looks very indented and rough, and requires a little smoothing down with a blunt chisel, before it is fit to

receive the inlaying. Both gold and silver are inlaid to decorate the Bidri vessels, and in Beder copper is also sometimes used. Thin plates of gold or silver are laid on a bed of wax and resin, which prevents their moving about, and serves as a glue when pressed on the ground work. A small piece of paper is next inserted into the cavities, made on the surface of the vessel, to take an impression of the excavated pattern. It is taken out and placed on the gold or silver leaf, which is cut into the exact measure thus obtained and the piece then taken up by the top of the finger and the chisel, placed on its corresponding cavity, to which it is firmly inserted by a steel point, and gently hammered in. The inlaying is more or less durable according to the depth to which the plate is fixed, and the value of the article depends upon the thickness and quantity of the precious metals used, and the degree of finish displayed in the execution of the patterns. Very thin leaf is used for the ordinary kinds, while in the more durable workmanship, gold are silver wire is employed. When the inlaying has been performed all over the surface in the manner described above, the hole in the bottom of the vessel left in the place of the opening through which the molten alloy was poured into the mould, is closed with lead, and the whole surface smoothed and polished with a common file and scraper. In Purniah this cleaning is effected by rubbing the surface with shell-lac and powdered corundum, and lastly with a piece of charcoal. Next comes the final process, that of giving a permanent black colour to the surface. This operation is performed at Beder by the appli-

cation of a paste made of salamoniac and saltpetre, ground up with brackish water.

At Purniah, the mixture is composed of four parts of salamoniac, one of unrefined nitre, and five of rough saltpetre, freshly collected, the whole being moistened with rapeseed oil, to which a little powdered charcoal is added, while at Murshidabad the composition used consists of saltpetre, salamoniac, blue vitriol and nitrate of potash, finely powdered and mixed with water. The article to be coloured is first subjected to a gentle heat, and thickly smeared with the paste, which is allowed to lie upon it for hours. When dry, it is washed and thoroughly cleaned with water or with the aid of sweet oil, and the Bidri-ware is now ready for sale. The process of colouring imparts to the surface a permanent dead black hue, which, however, does not *affect* the parts where the ornaments are laid, but rather enhances the lustre of the white silver or the yellow gold in contrast with the black ground. Bidri-ware is not liable to rust, does not dint under the blow of a hammer, and breaks only when thrown down from a great height or struck with violence. Captain Newbald states that he witnessed at Beder the whole process of inlaying, and "could not help admiring the precision, the lightness of touch, and celerity with which it was performed."

The patterns are generally of a floral description, more or less natural at Beder and conventional in upper India. In Purniah, the ornaments are sometimes of a Chinese character, which Sir George Birdwood supposes to have been introduced by way of Sikkim or Bhutan. In Lucknow, the

figure of a fish is frequently introduced among the floral decoration to suit the taste of the Muhammadan gentry of the place. This device had its origin in the fact that the late Kings of Oudh, occupying the foremost rank among the nobility of the Delhi Empire, delighted in parading their "Dignity of fish" (*Mahi-muratib*) which consisted of the privilege of carrying before them in all state processions the representation of fish, made of metal and borne upon a pole with two circular gilt bells attached to it. This mark of distiction was formerly bestowed only on nobles of the highest order, and the last occasion on which an Emperor of Delhi exercised the privilege of conferring this honour was when Shah Alam bestowed the dignity on Lord Lake. The Kings of Oudh displayed this dignity not only in its legitimate form, but employed the fish as an emblem of their high position in arts as well as in decorative architecture, and the figure of a partly natural, partly conventional fish has found its way among the patterns with which the Bidri manufactures of Lucknow adorn their ware.

Two kinds of ware are made in Purniah; the best called *Gharki*, in which the patterns are deeply set and well furnished; the other called *Karna-Bidri*, in which the patterns are plainer and inferior in finish. A modified form of Bidri work, called *Zarbuland* is made at Lucknow, in which the patterns are slightly raised and not set even with the surface as in the ordinary Bidri-ware. This is an imitation of the many kinds of copper and brass-ware, specially those of Tanjore in South India, in which the white silver designs stand in relief on the red or yellow

ground of the copper or brass vessels. The process followed in the manufacture of *Zarbuland* ware is nearly the same as that for the ordinary Bidri, except instead of excavating the patterns for the reception of the gold or silver plates, the ornamental designs are raised above the surface and chased. Occasionally gilt silver instead of the genuine article, is used in covering the patterns of *Zarbuland* work.

As may be seen from the description, the manufacture of Bidri-ware is carried on under a system of division of labour, the different processes being generally performed by three classes of people, *viz.*, the moulder, the carver and the inlayer. The moulder prepares the alloy, casts the vessels and turns it to its proper shape with his lathe. The carver engraves the patterns on the surface of the vessel and the inlayer designs the patterns, inlays the ornament of gold and silver, and finally colours and polishes the article.

As stated before, the four notable seats of Bidri manufacture are Beder, Lucknow, Purniah and Murshidabad. It is not known when the art was brought into Lucknow and Purniah, but its manufacture at Murshidabad dates from the commencement of the present century, when it was introduced by one Mir Ilahi Bakhsh. This Ilahi Bakhsh had an apprentice named Lochhmi, whose son Munna Lal, introduced many improvements in the manufacture, and at the time of his death, forty years ago, left the industry in a very flourishing condition. But it is now slowly perishing for want of encouragement. At

present, the manufacture is almost entirely in the hands of Mahomedan artizans. At Beder the trade is in the hands of Hindus of the Lingayet sect. At Purniah four families of Hindu brazier caste (Kansaris) are engaged in moulding and turning Bidri-ware, who live at Bellori, a village four miles from the civil station of Purniah. The rest of the processes is performed in the Old Town of Purniah by several Hindu castes, such as the Sonars (gold-smith) Dhanuks (labourers) and Sunris (wine-sellers) as well as by Mussalmans. At Lucknow the trade is in the hands of Mahomedans, who employ the braziers to cast the mould and artizans to perform the rest of the work.

At Lucknow, where labour is comparatively cheap, the artizans engaged in Bidri manufacture are paid by daily wages at the rate of six annas per day, and the employer in selling the articles turned out, charges a profit of 25 per cent. on his capital. At Purniah the braziers mould the vessels on their own account and sell them to the inlayers. The inlayer have no fixed rate of profit.

The largest collection of Bidri-ware ever brought together from all the four seats of manufacture, was perhaps that at the late Calcutta Exhibition (1883-84) of the articles sent from Beder by the Hyderabad State authorities, the most notable were a tea-poy, price, Rs. 195; a large spittoon, Rs. 125; A wash-hand basin, Rs. 55; five goglets, from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30; eight flower vases, from Rs. 22 to Rs. 45; eight trays, from Rs. 5 to Rs. 24, &c.

Malligaon Fair.

A town in the Beder District in latitude 18° 39′ 8″ north and longitude 77° 4′ 8″ east. Malligaon is celebrated for its annual horse fair, which is held in the cold weather, usually in November or December. Upwards of 4,000, horses and ponies are disposed of at the fair for sums varying from Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 to over 600.

The fair, which dates from the last century, was almost completely ruined forty years ago, owing to the levying of crushing transit duties on all cattle going to and returning from it. Half a century since the number of horses and ponies annually disposed of averaged from ten to fifteen thousand. But after the introduction of these vexatious transit duties the numbers offered for sale rapidly diminished. The duties exacted at almost every village along the roads leading to the fair were so heavy that owners had to pay about twenty rupees in this way for each horse, and as much more to take back those that were not sold. The late Minister abolished these duties some years ago, but the fair did not attract sellers until after the establishment of proper supervision a few years ago. In 1787 the number of horses offered for sale was considerably under 1,000; but five years later the total had reached 4,000, and there can be little doubt that with careful supervision the number will continue to show an annual increase. The following extract from a circular issued in 1883 by the officer commanding the Hyderabad Contingent (Sir Charles Gough) will serve to show the resources of the fair :—" The Brigadier-General during his present tour of

inspection took the opportunity of visiting Malligaon horse fair for the purpose of ascertaining personally the facilities which might be afforded thereby for the purchase of remounts for the cavalry of the force. He noted, after a careful examination of the animals brought for sale, that horses of a decidedly good stamp can be obtained thereat, but few over three years of age. The great majority of the stock were two years old, but they were well furnished, as a rule, and many very promising colts and fillies were obtainable suitable for remounts at an average of rupees 200 or 250 each. There were in all 3,391 horses and ponies exposed for sale in 1884. This shows a considerable increase over former years, and as the fair is evidently very popular and improving yearly there can be no doubt that in a few years more, when the full effects of the excellent horse-breeding arrangements lately introduced by His Highness the Nizam's Government have developed, cavalry remounts of a good stamp, and fully equal to requirements of the service, will be obtainable at an average cost of H. S. rupees 300 each. The Brigadier-General therefore considers that the attention of all officers commanding cavalry regiments of the force may be most advantageously directed to utilizing the opportunities of procuring remounts afforded by this annual fair."

The following are extracts from a report of the Director of Army Remount Operations in India (Lieut-Colonel Ben Williams) on the fair. The report is dated January 1883:—"I found the lines for the horses laid out to the south-east of the small village of Malligaon on a

high and stony upland. They were laid out with great accuracy and care, and the one point that struck me most was that instead of a double line of horses they were only in one row, the space on the other side of the pathway being occupied by tents or huts for the owners of horses. In this way there was not that constant fighting and neighing going on. At a short distance from the fair, and on an eminence, were tents erected and a space railed off, for the better inspecting and judging of the horses and young stock, whilst around the camp on all sides were latrines carefully marked out by flags, &c., inside of which no nuisances were allowed, and I may say the sanitary arrangements throughout were perfect. Mr. Ali Abdullah, the Superintendent of Horse-breeding operations for His Highness the Nizam's Government, was in charge of the fair, assisted by some magistrates and police officers of the neighbouring districts, and the way he managed the number of all sorts of nationalities assembled there, and the perfect readiness with which he was ever ready to listen to the *pros* and *cons* in the various disputes that arose, claimed the very highest admiration. Judging from my own observation, I should say that there were close upon 3,000 head of horses assembled at the fair, and from inquiries I was told they came in from the Birh districts, Askti taluka, Nandair zillah, the Beder district, Purbhani, Ahmedabad, and some from Kathiawar and Ajmir. The majority of the horses were below three years of age, and the young stock showed quality and breeding. The brood-mares were a grand sight to see,

mostly Mahratta mares, and more like Arab mares than anything else—long, lean, blood heads, small muzzles, large nostrils, prominent ears, short in the leg, deep in the girth, broad on the hip, large bone, good elbows and rare good arms, gaskins and feet, the average height being between 14-3 and 15. There were an endless number of splendid pony mares, well suited for mule-breeding, which must be a great success if once successfully carried through —the mares, the climate, the soil, all being in favour of breeding the best of mules. The European buyers were few, only four officers from the Hyderabad cavalry and artillery having put in an appearance, and these bought a dozen or more horses at an average of Hyderabad Rupees 330. The competition, however, amongst the native, themselves and dealers was very brisk. The yearlings and two-year-olds were most promising, and from the number of mares in foal that I saw, and the brisk serving that was going on, it promised well for the supply of young stock in the future. I made many personal inquiries from amongst the villagers and natives of all classes, and they assured me that the number of horses that now assembled at the fair, had doubled in the last two or three years, and it seemed to me that they were as keen upon the subject of horse-breeding as any one could desire, and I could not but feel confident that if Mr. Ali Abdullah is supported in his endeavours, a supply of horses in the future may be confidently looked forward to that will be most valuable to His Highness the Nizam."

The Assistant Adjutant General, Hyderabad Contin-

gent (Captain Gilchrist), in a report dated March 1883, writes as follows regarding the fair:—"Of horses over four years there were some 200, but very few among them were worth looking at, being mostly very old and unsound. A fact worth noticing is that for the prize awarded to four-year-olds only four horses were entered, so what the majority must have been like requires no comment. However, none of this class were by the stud sires. The three-year-olds made a much better show, but the supply was far short of the demand. Our Remount Committee only succeeded in purchasing 9 horses, and of these 2 went to the battery at Aurungabad, 3 to the 2nd Cavalry at Hingoli, and 4 to the 3rd Cavalry at Mominabad. The average price paid was considered high, and for the better horses of this class the dealers asked five to six hundred rupees. A great many were rejected for unsoundness, chiefly in the hocks. The remounts selected by the committee were of a good stamp, and in every way suitable to the service. When the supply of three and four-year-olds will allow of our regiments and batteries purchasing annually about 100 horses at an average of H. S. Rupees 300, then will Malligaon be able to compete with the Bombay market, but at present it certainly cannot do so. The yearlings and two-year-olds were far and away the best class at the fair. Upwards of 600, were by the stud sires, and a large proportion of them do the department great credit, as they showed the bone and quality of the Arab sire, and if the dealers rear them properly, and bring them back as three-year-olds, they will find a ready sale at good prices; but I feel

convinced the best find their way to the Bombay market, where they pass for imported Arabs. There were also 800 yearlings and two-year-olds from British territories; some of them were by the stud horses of the Bombay Presidency, and showed breeding; out of 3,800 animals at the fair quite half are yearlings and young two-year-olds. The galloways and ponies were decidedly good, and any number of baggage ponies are to be had from 40 to 50 rupees of a very good stamp. It is now eight years since I first visited the fair, and the improvement of late years are most creditable. The arrangements made by the department for the general management of the fair is good, the sales are briskly carried on, and all concerned are satisfied."

In the year 1294 F. the fair was visited by Major Gough, who was in charge of the horse-breeding operations of the Government. This officer has reported that the attendance at the Fair was interfered with by heavy rain which fell shortly before the date in which the Fair was to open, and the black soil road being rendered for a time almost impassable, many persons were prevented from coming. An enumeration of the horses and ponies brought the Fair showed that there were:—

Colts and Fillies under 2 years old	...	953
Do. between 2 and 4 years old	...	209
Horses and ponies, 4 years old	...	59
Do. 5 years old and upwards	...	60
Mares, 4 years old and upwards	...	312
Total	...	1,593

Compared with preceding years this number is very small, there having been in

1881	...	...	3,391	Horses and ponies.
1882	...	...	3,891	„
1883	...	...	3,935	„

Major Gough accounts for this as follows :—

" In the last mentioned year, there was, I am informed, a storm of exceptional violence, the results of which were very disastrous. The state of the weather this year just at the time the horses were starting for the Fair, and the recollection of last year's misfortunes, must, in my opinion, have been one of the main causes of the comparatively small number of horses brought this year. Many of those which had to come long distances must, in consequence of the severe weather, have been obliged to delay their journey until it was too late for them to come at all, as, though cloth merchants and petty dealers remain for a couple of months, the dealing in horses comes to an end, and purchasers and breeders take their departure after a few days."

His Highness' Government allot a sum of Rs. 1,800 to be given in prizes to successful breeders. Major Gough, who awarded the prizes, has reported on this point as follows :—

" His Highness' prize of Rs. 200 to the best colt at the Fair, bred from His Highness' Government stallions. Awarded to a fine grey colt brought from Beder, rising three, and nearly 15 hands high."

" Four prizes of Rs. 50, 40, 30 and 20 to foals of 6 months, to 1 year old ; the first three of which were taken

by foals produced in His Highness' Dominions, and the last by a colt from the Poona District."

"Four prizes of Rs. 100, 70, 40 and 20 to colts and fillies from 1 to 2 years old; all taken by animals bred in His Highness' Dominions."

"Four prizes of Rs. 100, 70, 40 and 20 to colts and fillies from 2 to 3 years old; three of which were taken by the produce of His Highness' Government stallions, the other going to a colt from one of the British Government series.

"Two prizes of Rs. 100 and 70 for the produce of His Highness' Government stallions, from six months to one year old."

"One prize of Rs. 150 to the best colt or filly from His Highness' Government stallions, 2 to 4 years old."

"Four prizes of Rs. 100, 70, 40, and 20 for 4 years old colts, the first of which was taken by a fine colt by the English horse 'Forger' of the British stud, but bred within His Highness' territory; the second by a colt got by one of His Highness' Government stallions, and the remaining two by Deccanees.

"Four prizes of Rs. 100, 70, 40 and 20 for mares fit for breeding, over 4 years old, all of which were taken by mares owned by subjects of His Highness.

"Four prizes of Rs. 50, 40, 30 and 15 for ponies, all taken by animals purchased for regimental purposes by Captain Knox."

"It is satisfactory to observe that, out of the 28 prizes awarded, all but three were unanimously given by the

Committee to horses and ponies bred within His Highness' Dominions—a fact which not only speaks well for the comparative merits of the animals, but which goes far to encourage breeders in the future."

"To compete for the prizes for mares fit for breeding, no less than 140 mares were exhibited, and to my knowledge there were many fine large mares which were not brought up. There were, of course, a large number of pony mares at the fair, and though they are useful in their way, for breeding purposes, I exclude them from the class of 'brood-mares,' and the number of these I estimate at about 150. Although this number is small compared with that of some former years when the Fair was more largely attended, I was much struck with the excellent shape and quality of many of the mares I saw. Many of them, I found, on enquiry, had already been served by the Government stallions standing in the districts whence they came, but during the last few days of the Fair, seventy mares were served by the Government stallions I had with me."

"Had they not arrived so late, many more mares would have been served before I left Malligaon. I, however, left four stallions under the charge of the Tahsildar to complete the work. I trust there may be good results. But, to ensure this, and to encourage horse-breeding generally, I am convinced that the presence of the Superintendent of these operations, or his assistant, in the horse-breeding districts is most desirable. I consider that eight months of the year should be spent in those parts of the dominions where good mares are to be found, and where the country

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is adapted for horse breeding. We have the high authority of Colonel Ben Williams for the quality, and Mr. Ali Abdoollah's records as to the quantity of the mares, and I was informed that in the country north and west of Malligaon and about Aurungabad there not unfrequently five to ten mares to be found in a village. Mr. Ali Abdoolah reports that he personally inspected 480 brood-mares in the neighbourhood of Ashti in the Birh Zillah."

Game.

Duck and snipe can be had at the following tanks (which are all situated within a radius of 8 miles of Beder) :—

Andora, Kaiwar, Karinja, Dapur, Mulkapur, Khaja Jehan, Bowgi, Koomarwada, and Belura.

Deer are met with, in the plains round about Beder. Wild boar can be had on the outskirts of the village of Hoshully, and also near villages, where there are sugar-cane plantations.

There being no thick forest close by, large game such as tigers, panthers, bears &c., cannot be had ; but, if any sportsman is anxious to shoot bear, he will have to go to the Surfkahs Taluq of Jukal, which is about 36 miles N. N. West of Beder.

The nearest Railway Station to Beder is Dharūr which is about 49 miles. The villages along the route (between Beder and Dharūr) are :—

Names of Stations.	Distance in miles and furlongs.		Remarks.
	M.	F.	
1. Hasaldy ...			A road is in course of construction between Beder and Digwal, a distance of 23 miles.
2. Mulkalpaud ...			
3. Yelgoi ...			
4. Burdepur ...	16	0	There is a cart track between Digwal and Dharur.
5. Digwal ...	7		
6. Kaveln ...	2		The portion, between Kotapulli and Dharur, (a distance of 8 miles) is covered with jungle consisting of palas, Mowha, and teak trees.
7. Koheir ...	4		
8. Pedgumma ...			
9. Mothakpully ...			
10. Yennarum ...			
11. Kotapulli ...	10		Carts for travelling available.
12. Rudrarum ...			
13. Dharur ...	9		

Route from Secunderabad to Beder.

	Names of Stations.	Distance in miles and furlongs. M.	F.	Remarks.
	Secunderabad ...			
	Bigampet ...			
	Balanagaram ...			
1.	Kakutlapully ...	6	12	Low hills and Jungle. Water abundant.
	Nizampet ...			
	Miyanpurah ...			
	Ramachendrapuram ...			
2.	Patencheru ...	12	0	Low hills and Jungle. A Traveller's bungalow.
3.	Kandi ...	12	2	Contains 1,000 inhabitants.
	Pothreddipully ...			
	Nandikhandi ...			
4.	Sadasivpet ...	11	1	Large population. Traveller's bungalow.
5.	Kamkol ...	10	3	
	Digwal ...			
6.	Burdepur ...	14		
	Yelgoi ...			
	Mulkalpaud ...			
	Hasaldy ...			
	Beder ...	16		Traveller's bungalow. Head Quarters of the District.

Route from Beder to the extreme limits of Beder District towards Aurungabad.

	Names of Stations.	Distance in miles and furlongs.		Remarks.
		M.	Fur.	
	Nawabad ...			
	Katur ...			
1.	Khanapur ...	9	5	A small village.
2.	Halburga ...	14	4	(*b*) Travellers bungalow.
	Taigampur ...			
	Ahmedabad ...			
	Uppala ...			
	Ambar Singa ...			
	Kotakilwadi ...			
	Kurrasudal ...			
3.	Dongoprah ...	12	1	A small village. A rest house.
	Alsur ...			
	Chaudisur ...			
	Digi ..			
4.	Murag ...	8	2	(*b*)
	Tugri ...			
	Savergaon ...			
	Mugah ...			
	Bahamani ...			
	Malawadi ...			
5.	Udgir ...	12	0	(*b*) A town with 1,000 houses. Post Office (Moglai).
	Sonmathpur ...			
	Usunkwadi ...			
	Kallur ..			
	Ismailpur ...			
	Ekruka ...			
	Kiani ...			
	Sukni ...			
6.	Malli ..	13	4	
	Hudergally ..			
	Godawadi ...			
	Sopally ...			
	Surur ...			
	Kallegaum ...			
7.	Rajura ...	12	2	Moglai Post Office.
	Kalagaum ...			
	Smutana ...			
	Kavdalli ...	8	0	

Bahamani Dynasty.

Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali was the founder of the Bahamani dynasty at Beder. He was the next in succession to Feroze Shah Bahamani of Gulburgah. His date of accession in the Deccan was 825 H., and that of Beder was 24 Rabi-ul-Aval, 832 H. After the battle with Hoshung Shah of Malwa, Sultan Ahmed came in the direction of Beder on his hunting excursion and selected the spot for his capital, which was called Ahmedabad Beder, after his name. He celebrated the marriage of his son Ala-ud-din with the daughter of Naseer Khan, king of Asserghur, in order to strengthen himself against the Sultans of Malwa and Guzerat. After this event, the king (Sultan Ahmed) divided his country among his sons, as follows :—

1. Mahomed Khan got Raigeer, Mahoor and Gutam of the Berar province.

2. Daud Khan was given all the household jewels and property in addition to the kingdom of Telingana.

3. Ala-ud-din was nominated his successor at Beder his capital.

4. Mahomed Khan, the youngest was made to reign conjointly with his elder brother Ala-ud-din.

Sultan Ahmed fought with Hoshung Shah in the province of Kherla, which ended in Sultan Ahmed's retaining Berars, and his opponent occupying Kherla in Narsinga's kingdom. After his return to Beder, he breathed his last in 838 H. to the great regret of his subjects. His tomb stands on the plain of Ashtoor, three miles to the east of Beder. His reign in the Deccan (Gulburgah) and that at

Beder extends over a period of twelve years, nine months, and twenty days.

Ala-ud-din succeeded to the throne of Beder, on the 3rd Rajab, 838 H., on the death of his father. He evinced a great interest in the welfare of his subjects, and built an hospital in Beder. To meet the expenses of this establishment, the revenue of a few villages was alloted to it. The institution was placed in charge of Hindu and Mahomedan physicians, skilled in Unani (Greek medical science). Selling liquor was strictly prohibited throughout his dominions. He was known to be a bigotted king. After his return to Beder from the Bijapur war, in 847 H., he indulged himself in mirth and enjoyment, left the reins of Government entirely in the hands of Khaja Gowhan, his minister, and gave himself up to enjoyment to such an extent, that he did not give an interview to his people for more than five months. He had about a thousand women in his harem, during this period of enjoyment. After 862 H., he gave up all his wicked habits, and repented of his sins. He was so ashamed of his vicious acts, that he retired for life. The people of Mudgul set up Mahomed Khan, his brother, in opposition to Ala-ud-din. As the Rais of Vizianagar had not paid him the tribute for five years, he despatched his brother Mahomed Khan, Khaja Gowhan, and Imad-ul-mulk to recover the tribute. They plundered the Vizianagar country and brought a large booty with them. On their return, they came to Mudgul. Mahomed Khan being led astray by the people of Mudgul, took possession of that town, Raichore, Bijapur, Sholapur, and

Nuldroog, and killed Imad-ul-mulk Gori, who was the most faithful nobleman of the Bahamani court, and whom Sultan Ala-ud-din respected, as his father. Both of the brothers met at Mudgul and fought a battle, in which Mahomed Khan was defeated and was compelled to flee to the jungles. On Ala-ud-din's return to Beder he sent for his younger brother, Mahomed Khan and gave him the Telingana country. Since then Mahomed Khan remained very faithful to his elder brother.

Devrai, king of Vizianagar with 3,60,000 Cavalry and Infantry came to Mudgul in 847 H., took possession of Mudgul, and Nékapur, and encamped on the banks of Krishna, on Mudgul frontier, at which place a fierce battle took place between Devrai and Ala-ud-din, the forces of the latter were less than 50,000. Notwithstanding the small force which Sultan Ala-ud-din had, he vanquished Devrai twice.

Devrai's son was killed in this contest. Two Commanders of the Sultan were taken prisoners. The Sultan concluded a treaty of tribute with Devrai, on which both the commanders of the Sultan were released. After certain unimportant engagements, he died in 862 H. His rule extended over 23 years. He nominated Humayun Shah, the tyrant, as his successor, during his lifetime.

Humayun, the Tyrant. After Ala-ud-din's death, the enthronement of Humayun the Tyrant, was opposed by Saif Khan and Mulu Khan of the Bereeds and Shah Habebulla, an accomplished scholar.

Hassan Khan, younger brother of Humayun was put

on the throne by them. The subjects also attempted to behead Humayun. After a small engagement, he pacified the people, took them into his confidence, and entered the room, in which his brother Hassan Khan, and Saif Khan were trembling with fear. He arrested both of them, tied them to the elephant's leg, and had them dragged. Humayun ascended the throne in 862 H. at the age of 18 years. He confirmed Khaja Mahomed Gowhan, as his minister, made him governor of Bijapur, and conferred upon him, the title of Malak-ut-Tujar.

Mulu Khan left for Karnatic on a campaign; and Shah Habebulla and Hassan Khan were both imprisoned. The two latter bribed the guards, absconded in company with Yusuf Khan the Turk, a slave of Ala-ud-din, who had helped them in their rescue. They collected a small army at Kamtana in a week's time, and besieged Beder; and, failing to capture that fort, they went away to Beed. Humayun heard this at Warangal, and returned to Beder in 864 H. and mercilessly killed 3,000 men, that were-in charge of the fort. The fort-keeper was shut up in a cage, and one of his limbs was amputated daily. He sent 60,000 horse, besides a large army to Beed, to arrest his brother, Hassan Khan, who sought refuge with Saraj Khan Junodi, the Governor of Bijapur, who under the pretext of protection apprehended Hassan Khan, Yusuf Khan the slave, and seven followers, and sent them to Humayun at Beder.

Humayun the Tyrant threw his brother Hassan Khan before a ferocious tiger, who instantly tore him to pieces. Seven hundred of Hassan Khan's relatives were also killed

without any clemency. He was such a vicious king that, soon after any marriage, the chastity of not a single bride was spared by him. His courtiers and noblemen were so terrified to appear before him, and, they always received valedictions from their kinsfolk, before they entered the royal audience hall, as they were always uncertain of their lives being saved by the king through some wrath or vexation. Humayun got very ill and died on the 28th Jikad 865 H., leaving his son Nizam Shah a lad of 8 years as his heir, whom he nominated as his successor, during his sickness. He also appointed Khaja Jehan the Turk, as an Ambassador, and Mahomed Gowhan as Prime Minister, directing them to conduct the administration of his kingdom in consultation with his wife, the mother of the minor king. Humayun reigned for three years, six months, and six days.

Nizam Shah. Was installed as king on the very day of his father's death. He proved more amiable and kinder to his subjects than his father who was a despot. The administration was ably managed during the minority of the king by his sagacious mother, Mukhdumai Jehan, Khaja Jehan the Turk, and Mahomed Gowhan, who gradually removed the stigma of injustice and oppression which were exercised by Humayun. The Rajah of Orissa and the Jamadars of Telingana, finding the king, a minor, advanced as far as Kowlas, with a large army. In the meantime, the king of Ahmednagar demanded tribute from the Rajah of Orissa and the Jamadars of Telingana for the large booty, which they got from the Mahomedan kingdoms. The tribute being refused, the king of Ahmednagar despatched

a large army headed by Mohibulla, who totally defeated the king of Orissa. Khaja Jehan, and Mahomed Gowhan also persecuted the Rajahs of Orissa and Jemadars of Telingana and brought a large booty with them to Beder. In 866 H. Sultan Mahomed Khilji of Mandu conjointly with the king of Orissa and Zamindars of Telingana, advanced *via.* Kandesh towards the Bahamani kingdom, as far as Kandahar with a force of 28,000. When they entered into a campaign with the Nizam Shah of Beder, who had assembled a large force from Dowlatabad, Berar, and Bijapur under the commands of Khaja Jehan, the Turk, Nizam-ul-Mulk the Turk, Mahomed Gowhan, and Secunder Khan. The first overthrew the enemy's army, but Secunder Khan, fearing the risk the young sovereign may run, brought him to the rear. Seeing this, the army was panic-struck, and was defeated. They were pursued by the enemies up to the very walls of Beder. The mother of the prince in company of the king, Khaja Gowhan, the Malik-ut-Tujar, and with some devoted adherents, secured their wealth and fled to Ferozebad (a city built by Feroze Shah, the immediate predecessor of Sultan Ahmed Bahamani) on the river Bheema. After a siege of 17 days Mahomed Khilji besieged the Beder fort. Together with this, Khilji took possession of the territories of Berar, Beed, and Dowlatabad. The town of Beder was burnt down to ashes, by Sultan Mahomed Khilji. This led the inhabitants of Beder to escape in different directions. There was very little hope, that Beder would be restored to the Bahamani dynasty. But Mahomed Gowhan having taken Mahomed Shah Guzerati into his confidence,

collected 40,000 troops, and invested Beder. Without any fight, Mahomed Gowhan took possession of stores so adroitly, that he cut off all supplies from Khilji, who blinded all his own elephants, fled to Elichpoor, and Akalkote, with a great suffering, and with the loss of 6,000 combatants, and at last reached Mundu. Nizam Shah Bahamani, gave large, valuable presents to Mahomed Shah Guzerati, returned to Beder, and commenced its restoration. Nizam Shah Bahamani reigned for two years and one month. He died suddenly on the 12th Zilkhad 867 H. on the very night of his marriage while he was taking his bride home.

Mahomed Shah Lashkari succeeded his brother Nizam Shah at the age of 9. In the beginning, the country was governed by Khaja Jehan, and Mukhdumai Jehan. He married in his 14th year and took the administration of the country into his own hands. When he found, that Khaja Jehan was appointing people in the State, on his own responsibility, which was brought to his notice by his mother, the king had Khaja Jehan, the Turk, slain. Khaja Mahomed Gowhan succeeded to the title of Khaja Jehan, on the assassination of its previous possessor. In 874 H, Khaja Mahomed Gowhan invaded Bijapur, the major portion of which was conquered by him, within the space of three years. Fort Khelva (in Bijapur) which was considered impregnable, and up to date was not taken up by any invader, now fell into the hands of Khaja Mahomed Gowhan. He also wrested Sunkéser and the seaport of Goa, on the Malabar Coast, from Vizianagar, and return-

ed to Beder after having been away for three years. Subsequently Khaja Mahomed Gowhan led a life of recluse till 876 H. On the return from a public Darbar he used to be in the company of Fakeers, which he did not consider below his dignity. He went about from house to house in disguise, enquiring after the welfare of the poor. In 876 Hijri Oorya, Rajamundry, and Kandhar, were annexed to Beder. In 877 H. Purkeshwar, Rajah of Nelkavan at the instigation of the Rajah of Vizianagar, attempted to take Goa, which Khaja Gowhan had already captured. When Mahomed Shah, and Mahomed Gowhan heard this, they marched against Purkeshwar and defeated him. It was after this victory, that the Prime Minister began to style his sovereign, Mahomed Shah Lashkari. Leaving Mahomed Gowhan in charge of Nelkavan, the king returned to his capital. His country was a prey to cholera, and famine for two years after his return; in addition to which, he suffered a bereavement in his family, by the death of his accomplished and clever mother, Mukhtumai Jehan. Sultan Mahomed Shah having left Mahomed Gowhan at Rajamundry, left for a long expedition, and succeeded in capturing Odessa, fort Kandel, Masulipatam and Gondanoor. He also plundered the temple of Kunji in Raja Narsinga's dominions. It was owing to his having succeeded in gaining so many battles, he won the heroic title of "Ghazi." At the onset, (on the advice of Mahomed Gowhan) his country was divided into four divisions; but latterly the number of his favorites having increased, the number of divisions was doubled.

1. Fathaulla, the Imadul Mulk, was made Governor of Berar.

2. Khudavund Khan, the Abyssinian, of Malwa.

3. Yusuf Adilkhan was placed in charge of the Mahrathi country, the capital of which was Dowlatabad.

4. Fakar-ūl-mulk, a near relation of the late Khaja Jehan, the Turk, was deputed Governor of Ollessa, Narsinga, Gondanoor, Masulipatam and Rajamundry.

5. Khaja Mahomed Gowhan was given the Karnatic, Bijapur, Raichore, Mudgula.

6. Dastur Dinar, the Abyssinian, was appointed Administrator to the states of Hasanabad, Gulburgah, Sauger, Nuldroog, and Sholapur.

7. Nizam-ul-mulk Behri, was given Telingana.

8. Warangal fell to the lot of Azam Khan. Some districts from each of these divisions, were retained as Crown lands. It was in this king's time that the power of Beder was at its zenith. Owing to some false representations having been made to the king by the enemies of Mahomed Gowhan, who had done a great deal for his king and country, the prime minister (Mahomed Gowhan) was assassinated by the hands of Jowher in 852 H., orders having been issued when the king was in a state of intoxication, from which he shortly recovered. Having been informed that false complaints were lodged against Mahomed Gowhan, (who had already been assassinated) issued peremptory orders for the assasination of the malcontents. After this assassination, the king fretted, and pined away, and died in 887 H, after a reign of 20 years.

Mahomed Gowhan who was a native of Kawan, in Gilon (Persia), whose name was Malik Shah Mahomed, was descended from Genghis Khan, the Conqueror. His father and grandfather were the ministers of Gilon. He spent 40 years in travelling over the world, and came, as a merchant, to the Bahamani court in the reign of Alla-ud-din Bahamani, who detained Mahomed Gowhan at Beder, and made him Superintendent of his country. He administered the state for several years between the reign of Alla-ud-din and Mahomed Lashkari. He was a very able man and was proficient in Philosophy, Logic, Astrology, Mathematics, Medicine, and Surgery. Besides this, he was both an author and a poet. His tomb can be seen to the present day, and is located on the bund of a tank, about a mile to the east of Beder. He died at the age of 78, and was the best Prime minister of the Bahamani dynasty.

Sultan Mahomed Shah, the sixth king of Bahamani dynasty, ascended the throne of his father and at which time he was 12 years old. He appointed Nizam-ul-Mulk Behri as prime minister. Most of the king's time was employed in settling disputes and suppressing factions, which work was rendered easy to him, by the good management of the late prime minister Mahomed Gowhan. As Yusuf Adil Khan, the Turk, was a great enemy of Nizam-ul-Mulk Behri, disputes arose between them, which resulted in a drawn battle at Beder, in which 4,000 Turks were killed, and a truce was declared. After which, Yusuf Adil Khan went to Bijapur, and Nizam-ul-Mulk was left

unmolested at Beder. The taluqs of Beder were arranged for administrative purposes, as follows:—

1. Malik Ahmed, brother of the prime minister was appointed Governor of Bede, Dharur, &c.

2. Shaik Alla-ud-din was appointed Commander-in-Chief of Berar in place of his father.

3. Khawam-ul-Mulk got the whole of Telingana.

4. Khasim Bereed, the Turk, was made Kotwal (Police Commissioner) of Beder.

Fakur-ul-Mulk was made an Ameer of the Court.

Nizam-ul-Mulk Behri managed the affairs of his country very well for four years. In 891 H. (Nizam-ul-Mulk led a force against Khawam-ul-Mulk, who came from Rajamundry, plundering up to Warangal. Khawam-ul-Mulk fled to Rajamundry on hearing of the arrival of the Sultan's force. The people of Warangal laid plots to take Nizam-ul-Mulk's life; on hearing which, the Minister fled to Beder, where he tried to secure some money from the Government Treasury without the king's orders, but was slain in the attempt by Pasaud Khan, the Deccanee, who, while taking the head of Nizam-ul-Mulk to Warangal, came across the King at the city gates of Beder; and from this time, the Deccan Turks secured the confidence of the King. In 892 H. a plot was laid against the King's life, in which the Abyssinians and Deccanees took part, went into the fort, and having shut its gates, attacked the palace, when the King had taken a position on his Castle mansion, which place goes by the name of Shah Burz, for the night. Next morning an altercation ensued between Turks and Moguls

on one side and Abyssinians and Deccanees on the other—the fight lasting for three days—owing to the King having shown partiality to the Turks and Moguls. The King pacified both the parties. But after this, all the Subadars having declared their independence, nothing remained to the King, with the exception of Beder, (with its surroundings, and Telingana. The Khutba, which used hitherto be read in the King's name, was discontinued in 895 H. In 897 H. Khasim Bereed, the Ambassador, having gained the possession of what had been left to the King, declared himself Commander-in-Chief by which the King was reduced to a mere puppet in his hands. On the 4th Zehej H. this king died after a reign of 37 years.

Before the accession of *Ahmed Shah,* son of Sultan Mahomed, the whole power passed into the hands of the Bereeds. Ameer Bereed, one of the slave kings, having taken pity on the nominal king Ahmed Shah, alloted some dwelling house and gardens for his use. Ahmed Shah died in 927 H, after a nominal reign of three years and one month.

Ahmed Shah was seconded by his son *Ala-ud-din,* but having been imprisoned by Ameer Bereed, died in captivity after two years and three months.

Wali-ulla succeeded to his nominal title of king, and spent the remaining years of his life in prison.

Kalimulla the last of the Bahamani kings, was kept in prison till 934 H.; at which time, he made his escape to Bijapur, but not getting any assistance from its king, he sought refuge in the court of Ahmednuggur, where he died,

His remains were brought and interred in Beder and with him ended the Bahamani dynasty of kings.

Bereed Dynasty.

When the Bahamani Dynasty, had its fall in 988 Hijri (the last king of which was Sultan Kulleem-ulla Bahamani) it was broken up into five district divisions, *viz* :—

1. *Nizam Shahi Dynasty.*—The capital of this was dynasty Ahmednugger in the Mahratta territory, which was founded by Malik Ahmed Bheiry.

2. *Imad Shahi Dynasty.*—The capital of this dynasty was Ellichpur in the Berar territory.

3. *Kutb Shahi Dynasty.*—The capital of this dynasty was Hyderabad in the Tellingana country, and was founded by Mahmood Kulli Kutb Shah.

4. *Adil Shah Dynasty.*—The capital of this dynasty was situated at Bijapur in the Karnatic territory.

5. *Bereed Dynasty.*—The capital of this dynasty was Ahmedabad (Beder).

After the fall of the Bereed Dynasty in the year 1026 Hijri; the sway of which lasted for 135 years; Beder having remained in the hands of the Sultans of Bijapur, for a short time, finally came into the possession of the Sultans of Chucktai, who had come from Delhi during the time of Alumgher. After the evacuation of Beder by the Sultans of Chucktai, Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah, came in possession of Beder from which time up to date it has continued to remain with his descendants, and may God always keep it as such!

There were seven kings of the Bereed Dynasty, who held sway over Beder, and after them for a short time, Adil Shah had the country ruled by his governors. The following tabular statement will give the names of the kings and vicegerents and the length of time each reigned.

No. 1.

Bereed Dynasty.

No.	Names.	Length of reign.
1	Kassim Bereed	15 years.
2	Ameer Bereed	39 ,,
3	Ali Bereed	38 ,,
4	Ibrahim Bereed	7 ,,
5	Kassim Bereed Sani	11 ,,
6	Ali Bereed Sani	12 ,,
7	Ameer Bereed Sani	13 ,,
	Total number of years.	135 years.

No. 2.

Adil Shah's Vicegerents.

No.	Names.	Length of Government.
1	Mirza Ali	12 years.
2	Malik Marjan	30 ,,
	Total number of years.	42 years.

Bereed Dynasty.—Kassim Bereed was the first King and founder of this Dynasty. He was a slave, but it is not quite certain whether he was of Gurji or Turkish descent. When the slave trade was slack, Shahub-ud-din Yezdi brought him from Heran (Persia), and sold him to Mahomed Shah Lashkeri Bahamani. In 889 Hijri on the ascension of Sultan Mahomed, when a battle took place between Malik Hassan, Nizam-ul-Mulk being chief Ambassador at Beder, and Adil Khan, Savai of Bijapur, Kassim Bereed having distinguished himself in many actions was appointed Kotwal of Beder by Nizam-ul-Mulk. In 890 Hijri, when Nizam-ul-Mulk was killed by Pasandh Khan (Deccanee), then Kassim Bereed was appointed as Vakeel Saltanath Ambassador by Sultan Mahomed.

In 892 Hijri Kassim Bereed was in great favour owing to his having distinguished himself on several occasions, and by degrees eventually in 895 Hijri was made Prime Minister, and the forts of Kandahar, Ousa, Oodghir and Kallian were nominally in his charge, because the old officers had not as yet handed over these forts to Kassim Bereed, whose sole intention was to capture them, but having abandoned this idea, proved traitor and rebelled against the king, on three different occasions, eventually be totally defeated his master and was on the eve of capturing Beder, when Dilaver Khan (an African officer) came to the rescue, defeated Kassim Bereed and made him fly to Kowlas, at which place another great battle took place, and Dilaver Khan met his end by a mad elephant, after which Kassim Bereed totally defeated the forces of his antago-

nist, and Sultan Mahomed to suit his ends re-appointed Kassim Bereed as Prime Minister.

Another battle ensued between Bahadur Gilany aided by Ahmed Khan Behiry and Kassim Bereed, and before its conclusion peace was arrived at between the parties. On the return of Mahomed Shah Bahamani in 907 Hijri from Gulburgah, where he had gone to celebrate his son Ahmed Shah's wedding, Kassim Bereed his Prime Minister who had fled to Ousa from Gulburgah after the defeat he had sustained there from the hands of Adil Shah, now returned to Beder, and having gained a thorough mastery over the king took the reins of government entirely into his own hands, thereby making his master a mere puppet in the administration of the State. Kassim Bereed after having held the sway for 15 years, died in the year 910 Hijri.

Kassim Bereed left three sons, Jehangir Khan, Ameer Bereed and Khanjah Bereed, the second mentioned of which (Ameer Bereed) succeeded his father as Prime Minister, and after a short time he deposed the king, and took the reins of Government into his own hands.

In 920 Hijri Ameer Bereed Imad-ul-Mulk with Kutb-ul-Mulk formed their intention to invade Bijapur, and Ameer Bereed, took Sultan Mahomed and his son Prince Ahmed with him. A battle ensued in which Ameer Bereed was defeated by the King of Bijapur, and Sultan Mahomed with his son Prince Ahmed were taken prisoners, and were afterwards sent to Gulburgah in great state by the King of Bijapur.

On the return of Sultan Mahomed and his son Prince

Ahmed from Gulburgah to Beder, Ameer Bereed who had fled here from Bijapoor after the late defeat he had sustained at the hands of the King of Bijapoor, made both Sultan Mahomed and his son Prince Ahmed prisoners.

After a short time Sultan Mahomed fled to Berar and having joined Imad-ul-Mulk Governor of Berar, invaded Beder with a large force. In the meanwhile some misunderstanding having arisen between these two parties Sultan Mahomed fled again to Ameer Bereed in whose hands he remained a puppet in the government as before.

At this time Ameer Bereed was holding sway at the forts of Oodghir, Kandahar and Ousa, and occasionally used to pay a visit to King Sultan Mahomed at Beder.

In 923 Hijri Ameer Bereed gained a victory over Kudhavind Khan, (the African Jagirdar of Kandahar). On the death of King Sultan Mahomed in 924 Hijri, Ameer Bereed the Prime Minister, nominally made Prince Ahmed Shah King, but as he was a great profligate and consequently did not attend to the administration of the State, he met with the same reception from the hands of Ameer Bereed as his father had done, and died after a short time spent in this manner.

In 927 Hijri, Prince Alla-ud-din son of Ahmed Sani grandson of Mahomed Shah, (Bahamani) became King of Beder and received the same treatment, as his father and grandfather had received at the hands of Ameer Bereed.

In 930 Hijri Prince Alla-ud-din being thoroughly disgusted of this kind of treatment laid plots for the assassination of Ameer Bereed, as well as planned his escape,

but having proved unsuccessful was dealt with more harshly than before, and a very strong guard was placed over his person by Ameer Bereed. He died in captivity.

After this Sultan Wali-ulla-Bahamani son of Ahmed Shah and grandson of Sultan Mahomed Shah Bahamani became king of Beder. He also shared the same treatment at the hands of Ameer Bereed as his predecessors had done, and after three years planned his escape, but having failed in his endeavours, died from the effects of poison in captivity. On the death of Wali-ulla (Bahamani) Ameer Bareed, the Prime Minister installed Sultan Kulleem-ulla (son of Ahmed Shah and grandson of Mahomed Shah Bahamani) king of Beder in 932 Hijri.

This king was also a tool in the hands of Ameer Bereed, and 934 in Hijri made his escape, and eventually met with his death in the wilds and forests of Bijapur and Ahmednugger.

After Sultan Kalleem-ulla's death Ameer Bereed being now unmolested became king of Beder.

In 937 Hijri Adil Shah in company with Burhan Nizam Shah, with 12,000 horse, advanced against Beder. At this time Ameer Bereed was very feeble from old age and his eyesight was impaired as well. He therefore sought the aid of Shaik Alla-ud-din Imad-ul-Mulk governor of Berar who accordingly advanced against Beder, and tried to come to amicable terms with Sultan Adil Shah who had surrounded Beder at this time with a strong army.

In the meanwhile Ameer Bareed, having left his son Ali Bereed in charge of the Beder fort went to Shaik

Alla-ud-din, governor of Berar, and asked him to negotiate between himself and Sultan Adil Shah to which Shaik Alla-ud-din replied, that Sultan Adil Shah had a very strong army, and that all his endeavours to pacify him had proved fruitless, and that the only alternative now left was to hand over the fort of Beder to him. On hearing this Ameer Bereed went with a few followers and encamped near the Karanja tank, where he was engaged in drinking to such an extent that Asad Khan one of the officers of Adil Shah with a few soldiers came and took him and his followers (who were well intoxicated at the time) prisoners into Adil Shah's camp, where he came to his right senses after a short time, and being thoroughly ashamed of his behaviour handed over the fort of Beder to Sultan Adil Shah, and he and his family left for the fort of Dodghir.

After a short space of time on Shaik Alla-ud-din's (Governor of Berar) recommendation the fort of Beder was again restored to Ameer Bereed by Sultan Adil Shah. In 938 Hijri he declared war against Sultan Adil Shah at Bijapur, and having been throughly defeated returned to Beder, where he spent the remaining years of his life in peace.

He died in 948 Hijri at a place called Ballaghat, near the famous fort of Dowlatabad, and a large dome was raised over his remains at this place, which still exists to the present day.

He reigned for 39 years and died at the age of 90.

Ali Bereed.—Ali Bereed the 3rd king of the Bereed Dynasty ascended the throne in the year 949 Hijri. In

952 H. Nizam Shah, king of Ahmednugger, advanced on the fort of Ousa with a large army, and Ali Bereed at once sought the aid of Adil Shah, king of Bijapur, and for this assistance made over the fort of Kallian to him. Ali Bereed and Adil Shah of Bijapur with their united armies advanced against Nizam Shah, who at this time was encamped outside the fort of Ousa. A great battle ensued in which Ali Bereed and Adil Shah were defeated. Nizam Shah after this victory having met with no opposition, gained possession of the forts of Oodghir and Kandahar. In 956 H. Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger attacked the fort of Kallian, which was at this time in the possession of King Adil Shah of Bijapur and having defeated the allied armies of Ali Bereed and Adil Shah, made himself master of the fortress, which he very shortly afterwards lost possession of. In 962 H. Ali Bereed laid the foundation of the ramparts to the town of Beder, built several bastions, mounted them with cannon, and thus having strongly fortified the place lived unmolested within its walls ready for a seige at any time. In 970 H. Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger again attacked the fort of Kallian which was now in the possession of King Adil Shah of Bijapur. A battle took place between Adil Shah (who was aided by Ali Bereed) and Nizam Shah which ultimately resulted in a treaty. In 982 H. Murliza Nizam Shah, son of Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger, after having conquered Berar, advanced with a large army against Beder, but when he heard that Mahomed Shah Farookee had invaded Berar he abandoned the seige of Beder, and retraced his steps towards Berar

defeated Mahomed Shah Farookee and restored peace. In 986 H. he again advanced against Beder, and having received assistance from the Rutub Shahi kings of Hyderabad surrounded Beder with his army, but having heard at this crisis that his brother Burhan Shah (whom he had imprisoned) had escaped and invaded Ahmednugger, left the whole of his army, with that of the Kutúb Shahi kings at Beder, and went to Ahmednugger to suppress the rebellion, which was brought about by his brother.

When the Rutub Shahi kings of Hyderabad heard that Adil Shah of Bijapur was advancing towards Golconda, (their capital) with his army, they at once left Beder with their respective armies for the scene of action, and Nizam Shah's army which was the only one left at Beder, also went back to Ahmednugger. Ali Bereed after having built Rungeen Mahal in 987 H. died the same year after a reign of 38 years.

A large and magnificent dome was erected over his remains, on the west side of the town, which can be seen to the present day.

Ibrahim Bereed.—Ali Bereed left two sons, Ibrahim Bereed and Kassim Bereed Sani. Ibrahim Bereed the elder ascended the throne in the year 987 H. Sohail Khan (a Deccanee) was against this election, and laid plots for the dethronment of Ibrahim Bereed in order to place Kassim Bereed the younger brother on the throne.

He accordingly went to Koheer (Nigar-Patar) at which place Adil Shah of Bijapur was at this time engaged in drinking and feasting, and sought his aid, but having

been refused it, he (in company with Kassim Bereed Sani) began plundering all the villages round about Beder. When Ibrahim Bereed heard this he went against them with an army and having defeated them on the plains near Beder compelled them to flee to Bijapur, the king of which place was already dead, and the State at the time consequently being involved in difficulties and several factions having arisen, they returned to King Ibrahim Bereed at Beder, and tried their utmost to win him over by artifice and other proposals, but he being of a sharp turn of mind, and having already experienced their plotting disposition on several occasions, had them both imprisoned. In 990 H. on the influence and entreaties of some women in the King's harem being brought into force, both Sohail Khan (Deccanee) and Kassim Bereed Sani were released from prison. Ibrahim Bereed died in 994 H. after a short reign of seven years. There was a large and magnificient dome (situated to the west of the town) erected over his remains, and which can be seen to the present day.

Kassim Bereed Sani.—The fifth King of the Bereed Dynasty was Kassim Bereed, who ascended the throne (on the death of his brother Ibrahim Bereed who left no issue) in 994 H. Dilavar Khan, Prime Minister of the Bijapur state, at this time having incurred his master's (Adil Shah) displeasure and being afraid of his life sought refuge at Beder. After having remained in Beder for a few days, he went to Ahmednugger, the king of which place made him his Prime Minister. The friendship which had hitherto existed between Adil Shah of Bijapur, and Kassim Bereed

was now marred, owing to the latter having given protection to Dilaver Khan (the fugitive Prime Minister of Bijapur), which ultimately resulted in Adil Shah advancing against Beder with an army. While encamped at Beder news reached Adil Shah that Ismail Khan (brother of Dilaver Khan (who had been informed by Burhan Nizam Shah, king of Ahmednugger, had made his escape from prison (through the assistance of his brother Dilavar Khan who was the Prime Minister of Ahmednugger at the time) had advanced against Bijapur, and that he was aided by Barhan Nizam Shah, and Dilaver Khan withdrew his army at once from Beder, and went back to Bijapur to protect his country from the invaders, and Kassim Bereed who was then at Beder (his capital) reigned unmolested till his death, which took place in the year 989 H. after a very short reign of three years. His tomb which can be seen to the present day is located on the west end of the town of Beder.

Ali Bereed Sani.—On the death of Kassim Bereed Sani in 989 H. his son Ali Bereed Sani was declared king. This period might well be termed the crisis of the Bereed Dynasty of kings, in that Ali Bereed Sani at this time could not exercise the same amount of sway which his predecessors had hitherto done. Besides the eight districts of Mahomedabad Beder, Bhalki, Chidgopah, Hasnabad, Karamoongi, Nittoor, Aurad and Yekali, the annual revenue of which was 9,86,861 Rupees, one anna, and six pies, Ali Bereed Sani had no others in his possession at this juncture. At this time Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur, on the

plea that Beder belonged to his ancestors demanded it on threat from Ali Bereed Sani who at once asked Venkataveri Rai of the Carnatic and Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger to assist him in withholding his rights against Ibrahim Adil Shah.

Both these parties *viz.* (Venkataveri Rai of the Carnatic and Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger) came to his assistance, and planned that Venkataveri, should attack the forts of Mudgul and Nabhkapoor and Murtuza Khan (the general of Burhan Nizam Shah) the forts of Sholapur and Nuldroog which belonged to Ibrahim Adil Shah.

Murtuza Khan accordingly advanced against Sholapur in the year 1003 H. with an army of 10,000 men. Ibrahim Adil Shah was under the belief that Ali Bereed Sani (who was the sole instigator in this case) wrote and asked his relative Mahomed Kulli Kutub Shah of Hyderabad to invade Beder with his army, and that he on his part would defend his country against the combined armies of Venkataveri Rai of the Carnatic and Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger.

When Ali Bereed Sani heard that Mahomed Kulli Kutub Shah of Golcondah was advancing against Beder with an army, he asked Venkataveri Rai of the Carnatic to abandon his former plan *viz.*, that of capturing the forts of Mudgul and Nabkapur and to take his army into Mohamed Kuli Shah's dominions. While Murtuza Khan sent an army under the command of Aurung Bahadur to fight against Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur. A battle took place on the plains of Parainda near Sholapur

in which Aurang Bahadur was defeated. In the meanwhile Burhan Nizam Shah died at Ahmednugger, and his army which had already sustained a defeat at Parainda returned to his capital.

For soven years after this Ali Bereed Sani governed his state in tranquility, and died in the year 1010 H. after a reign of 12 years.

A large dome situated to the west of the town of Beder was built over his remains, and which can be seen to the present day.

Ameer Bereed Sani.—Ameer Bereed Sani, the seventh King of this dynasty, ascended the throne on the death of his father in 1010 H. At this time the state of Ibrahim Nizam Shah of Ahmednugger was involved in difficulties, and petty feuds were rife amongst his feudatory rajahs, and to quell these he sought the aid of Ameer Bereed Sani who rendered him the necessary assistance and after a few successful engagements with the rebel rajahs, succeeded in putting them down completely, and so ridding the State of further disturbances.

After this act Ameer Bereed Sani gave himself up to riotous living and consequently had to change his tactics in 1018 H, when he found that all his nobles had risen against him for having neglected the affairs of the State; and eventually placed Mirza Ali, a nobleman, on the throne, who drove the king out of his State and compelled him to take refuge at Bhajanuggur. Nizam Ali ruled the State efficiently for some years, and in 1027 H. betrothed his daughter Buddi Sahibah to Adil Shah, son of Maho-

med Adil Shah of Bijapur, which wedding was celebrated at Beder, with great pomp in the same year, and promised to give his daughter (Buddi Sahibah) Chidgopa as a wedding dowry, but not having kept his word, Mahomed Adil Shah brought him to task, and having defeated him in a battle at Kamtanah took both him and his confederate Wulli Bereed prisoners, whom he sent to the prison at Bijapur, where they ended their days. After the battle of Kamtanah, Mahomed Adil Shah of Bijapur, appointed Malik Marjan as vicegerent of Beder.

Ameer Bereed died in the year 1020 H, after a reign of nine years, and Mirza Ali (Vicegerent) in the year 1032 H. after having ruled the state twelve years, Malik Marjan (an African slave) was appointed to the Subadarship of Beder by Mahomed Adil Shah in 1036 H, and the fort of Beder was entrusted to his care.

He was a slave of the Bereed Dynasty, and was handed over to Adil Shah of Bijapur in 1027 H. as a portion of the wedding dowry, of his wife Buddi Sahibah.

In the year 1066 H, which was the last year of his Subadarship, he fought two battles with Prince Aurungzebe which cost him a large amount of money, and he was defeated in both and had to pay an indemnity as well. In the same year he fought a third battle with Aurungzebe in which he was again defeated, owing to a bastion on which was Malik Marjan with his sons and officers, being blown up by gunpowder. It is in connection with this disaster that the bastion known to the present day as the Fattehboorj derived its name, in that Aurungzebe proved

victorious, and captured Beder, directly the breach was made by the bastion being blown to pieces by gunpowder.

The gate through which Aurungzebe entered the fortifications to the town of Beder is known as the Fatteh-darvaza to the present day, and which is situated to the south of the town. After this victory by Aurungzebe, Beder came into the possession of the kings of Delhi. Malik Marjan's remains were brought from the Fattehboorj and interred near Mooltani Padsha's Dargah, which building is within the town walls of Beder and exists to the present day.

Malik Marjan after having been vicegerent for thirty years died in the year 1066 H.

Ifhtakhar Khan, 1st Killadar.—When the Mogul Emperor Aurungzebe captured the fort of Beder in the thirty-first year of Shah Jehan's reign from Siddee Amur Jan, the last Killadar (fort-keeper) of the Bijapur Dynasty of Kings, he appointed Ifhtakhar Khan, Killadar, which appointment he held till his death, which occurred three years afterwards.

Khan Zaman Khan, 2nd Killadar.—The second fort-keeper of Beder was Khan Zaman Khan, who after having held it for five and a half years, retired to Malwa, where he died in the year 1095 Fusli.

Mookhtar Khan, 3rd Killadar.—Mookhtar Khan the third fort-keeper of Beder was appointed in the thirty-second year of Emperor Alumgir's reign.

He had the large wooden gates of the fort and town

of Beder strongly clamped with thick iron plates and studded with large-headed iron nails.

He held the post of fort-keeper for seventeen years.

Meer Bahadur, 4th Killadar.—When Alumgir captured the fort of Golcondah from Tanni Shah, Meer Bahadur was the fourth fort-keeper of Beder, but having been appointed to the Subadarship of Hyderabad by Alumgir, he made over his post to his son Rustuom Dil Khan, who after having held the appointment for a year and a half, went away to Hyderabad, when he was succeeded by Koband Khan, who remained fort-keeper for a year and a half.

Kullundur Khan, 5th Killadar.—Kullundur Khan was the fifth fort-keeper of Beder, which appointment he obtained on the assassination of Koband Khan by Prince Mahomed Khan Buksh at Hyderabad.

Kullunder Khan after having held the post of fort-keeper for a short time, retired to Gulburgah where he died in 1097 Hijri.

Mirza Hisam-mud-din, 6th Killadar.—Mirza Hisam-mud-din was the sixth fort-keeper of Beder.

He built a mosque, and five niched battlements to Chandni boorj near the fort rampart, and adjacent to Patal Nagree, and had a beautiful garden laid out as well on the same site.

After having held the post of Killadar for about ten years, he left Beder for good.

Khanzad Khan, 7th Killadar.—The 7th fort-keeper

of Beder was Khanzad Khan, who having held this appointment for a short period, died at Beder.

Jalal-ud-din Khan, 8th Killadar.—Jalal-ud-din Khan the eigth fort-keeper of Beder was appointed during the time of the Mogul Emperor Anrungzebe, and died while holding this office at Beder.

Sabzavar Khan, 9th Killadar.—The 9th fort-keeper of Beder Sabzavar Khan was appointed 1106 H.

It was during his office that the Mosque attached to the Madrassah in which several people were assembled at the time for divine worship, fell down, seventy of whom were killed on the spot.

This event took place in the year 1107 H. He, after having held this office for two years, was transferred (in the same capacity) in 1108 H, to the fort of Dharur, situated near Jogai Ambah (Mominabad).

Rajah Anub Sing, 10th Killadar.—Rajah Anub Sing, the 10th fort-keeper of Beder succeeded Sabzavar Khan.

He was a great tyrant, and carried on his tyrannies to such an extent, that he actually murdered Todar Mull (Hazari) because he refused to betroth his daughter to his son. On this event occurring the other hazaris (with their followers) after shutting all the fort gates began fighting with him and his men, which lasted for three days, which ended by the oppressed party going to Delhi for redress. During their absence Rajah Anub Sing seeing how matters stood, made his escape through the Delhi gate to Bhalki.

After his escape the remaining Hazaris in the fort carried on the work for two months.

Meer Kalan Khan, 11th Killadar.—Rajah Anub Sing held the post of fort-keeper for five and a half years. Some time elapsed before another fort-keeper was appointed for Beder, but on the return of the Hazaris (who had gone to Delhi for redress) in 1134 H, Mahomed Shah sent Meer Kalan Khan from Delhi and appointed him the 11th fort-keeper of Beder.

Meer Kalan Khan on his arrival at Beder having found Mooltani Padshah's Dargah (a shrine much reverenced by the Mahomedans) in a dilapidated state restored it, and built a fine compound wall (with two entrances) and a large well with steps leading down to the surface of the water. It was during this fort-keeper's time that the Kamtahna tank (which is about six miles from Beder) breached and washed away several adjacent villages and filled all the deep wells in the vicinity of Beder to such an extent that water was within reach of about three feet.

Meer Kalan Khan died at the unusual age of 100 years, and was buried near Mooltani Padshah's Dargah.

Vasul Khan Kalan, 12th Killadar.—The twelfth fort-keeper of Beder was Vasul Khan, who, after having held his office for a short time was murdered by a Kettle drummer.

Vasul Khan Khurd, 13th Killadar.—The thirteenth fort-keeper of Beder was Vasul Khan Khurd; he was a brave man and passionately fond of hunting.

While out one day on a shooting excursion he was accidentally shot in the eye (the use of which he completely lost) by another huntsman. It was he who founded Vasul Gunj (which is known as Shah Gunj now), surrounded

it with a high wall, dug a deep trench, which ran right round the enclosure, and had three gateways (with shutters) built, of which some traces are left to the present day. He afterwards encouraged people of all classes to populate the place. The name Vasul Gunj was afterwards changed to Shah Gunj by Meer Mukhtada Khan.

During this fort-keeper's time there were two large markets known as Meer Gunj and Bahadur Gunj of which no traces whatever have been left.

In 1157 H, when Nizam Ali Khan heard that Vasu Khan was plundering the villages round about Beder he at once despatched Meer Mukhtada Khan with an army of 4,000 men to attack Beder.

Directly Vasul Khan heard of the advance of Meer Mukhtada Khan's army on Beder, he shut himself within the fort, and began the siege which lasted for several days, but without any decisive results. When Nizam Ali Khan found that Meer Mukhtada Khan could not subdue Vasul Khan, he left Aurungabad with a large army to attack Beder. When Nizam Ali Khan arrived at the fort walls of Beder, Vasul Khan quietly handed over the fort to him, because he full well knew that fighting against such a powerful enemy was next to useless.

After Vasul Khan handed over the fort of Beder to Nizam Ali Khan he remained within its walls for a short time, but before leaving it, he was determined to leave some traces of his handiwork behind. He had therefore all the trees (which were planted near the fort trench) cut down, broke down several fine houses, which were near the Sharja,

Darvaza, completely destroyed Daood Shah's Lukkyah (Fakeer's stand) and levelled several large houses within the fort to the ground. After wreaking his vengeance in this manner he left Beder for good and retired to Changler, which was his jaghir village.

After a short time spent at this place, he collected a few followers and began plundering the neighbouring villages.

When Meer Mukhtada Khan heard about the dacoities of Vasul Khan he, without any delay, despatched Momin Khan with five hundred men to check his career.

While Momin Khan and his small detachment were encamped at Ashtoor (a village about two miles from Beder), Vasul Khan with a handful of followers arrived at the spot in order to pry into Momin Khan's movements.

It so happpened that at this very time the annual Oorus (which is still held at Ashtoor every year) in memory of Sultan Ahmed Shah, was at its height, and some of the camp followers of Momin Khan having gone in search of forage, happened to come across Vasul Khan, whom they recognized and clubbed to death. They then severed his head, stuck it on a pole, and with great rejoicings brought it to Momin Khan, who had it suspended in the most prominent part of the Oorus (offerings to a saint). It was afterwards taken down by the orders of Momin Khan, and buried with the trunk near Syed Shaik Kulli-ul-la's dome which edifice can be seen to the present day at Ashtoor.

This sad event occurred in the year 1167 H. Vasul

Khan Khurd, was succeeded by Mukhtada Khan, the fourteenth fort-keeper of Beder.

Mukhtada Khan, 14th Killadar.—He incurred the displeasure of his master Salabat Jung (brother to Meer Nizam Ali Khan) by employing five thousand Sindees (inhabitants of Hyderabad, Sind), on his own responsibility, and with their aid began plundering the villages round about Beder. When the news of Mukhtada Khan's depredations reached Salabat Jung at Hyderabad he at once marched against Beder in 1174 H, with a large army, captured the fort and brought Mukhtada Khan under subjection. After a great deal of pleading Salabat Jung reinstated Mukhtada Khan and went away to Aurungabad. In 1175 H, Salabat Jung returned to Beder, and encamped near the Karanja tank, and Mukhtada Khan instead of paying a visit to his master shut himself within the fort and declared war against him.

While the siege was going on, some of the soldiers of Mukhtada Khan proved traitors, opened the fort gates, and allowed Salabat Jung to enter in with his army, the result being that Mukhtada Khan was made prisoner.

While this was going on, the Purbiahs who were within the fort after having slain all their wives and children began plundering the town of Beder. Mukhtada Khan was fort-keeper of Beder for seventeen years.

Sadut Khan, 15th Killadar.—The fifteenth fort-keeper of Beder was Sadut Khan who was appointed by Salabat Jung in 1175 H. He having found out several irregularities in the hasham department (gate-keepers) at once set about rectifying them, dismissed the former gate-keepers

(who were a set of thieves) and appointed Sindees instead, besides which he encouraged all classes of people to populate both the town and fort of Beder.

Sadut Khan lost his appointment of fort-keeper (which he held for three years) 1176 H, because he declined to slay Salabat Jung, when ordered to do so by Nizam Khan.

Allah-ud-dowlah, Dilar Jung, 16th Killadar.—The sixteenth fort-keeper of Beder was Allah-ud-dowlah, Dilar Jung, who was ignoble enough to slay Salabat Jung (then a prisoner in the fort of Beder.)

The title Dilar Jung was conferred on Allah-ud-dowlah by Nizam Ali Khan for having slain Salabat Jung.

He was a great tyrant and oppressed his subjects to such an extent that Nizam Ali Khan had him removed in 1179 H.

He was fort-keeper for three years and was succeeded by Meer Kallan Khan Sani.

Meer Kallan Khan Sani, 17th Killadar.—Meer Kallan Khan Sani, seventeenth fort-keeper of Beder, who after having held the appointment for two years was removed in 1180 H.

Murtuza Khan, 18th Killadar.—The eighteenth fort keeper of Beder, Murtuza Khan (Ein-ud-dowla) was appointed by Nizam Ali Khan in 1180 H.

It was during the time of his office that a battle (which lasted for a month) was fought between Raghoba (Rughnath Row) the great Mahratta leader and Nizam Ali Khan, on the banks of the Manjera, in which Raghoba was defeated,

by the firing of the big gun, Sath Gazee from the Sath Gaz bastion of the Beder fort.

History states that this gun was never fired again.

Murtuza Khan (Ein-ud-dowlah) after having held the post of fort-keeper for seven years, retired to Hyderabad in 1187 H.

Mahomed Ghouse (Seif-ud-dowlah), 19th Kilkidar.—The nineteenth fort-keeper of Beder was Mahomed Ghouse (Seif-ud-dowlah) who assumed charge of his office in 1187 H.

In 1191 H. which was the fourth year of his fort-keepership, an immense treasure was found at Ashtoor by a dhair (pariah) while digging up some old ruins.

The treasure in question consisted of upwards of 12,000 gold pegs (each weighing over five tolahs) 8 singooties (golden ornaments for the horns of bullocks), and two golden ploughs.

It so happened that a paramour of the dhair's (pariah) daughter to whom five golden pegs were given, went to Chidgopa and offered them for sale in the market.

A suspicion was at once aroused, the man was seized, and the five golden pegs were taken away from him, by Kashirao the daish pandia (village officer) of the place.

When Rustoum Rao the daish pandia of Ashtoor came to hear about this, he at once went to the dhair's house (where the remaining treasure lay concealed) and carried it all away. Mahomed Gouse (Seif-ud-dowlah) in his turn demanded his share of the booty, and being refused it, had recourse to fighting (which was the only alternative left), and having been the more powerful party of the two, seized

the treasure, brought it away to the fort, took Rustoum Rao, his followers and the dhair prisoners, and had them sent away to Nizam Ali Khan, at Dowlatabad, where they afterwards died in captivity.

The treasure was afterwards confiscated by Nizam Ali Khan and kept in the fort.

Mahomed Ghouse (Seif-ud-dowlah) after having held the post of fort-keeper for a little over five years, retired in 1192 H. to Hyderabad, where he died.

From the year 1192 H. to 1203 H. there were no proper fort-keepers for Beder, but Hoossain Khan, Rukh-nud-din Khan, Mir Zynoobabadeen Khan, Shah Abdul Razak, Rukh-mud-din Khan Sani were deputed by Seif Jung, (who was during this time at Hyderabad to manage all affairs in connection with the fort of Beder.

Seif Jung (Nuj-mud-dowlah), 20th Killadar.—The twentieth fort-keeper of Beder was Seif Jung (Nuj-mud-dowlah) who assumed charge of his office in 1203 H, and after having held it for two years died in 1205 H, at Hyderabad from the effects of poison. After this Gholam Mahmud Khan was sent from Hyderabad to manage the affairs of the fort of Beder, which he did for upwards of a year.

Amin-ul-Mulk (Tara Meah), 21st Killadar.—The twenty-first fort-keeper of Beder, Amin-ul-Mulk (Tara meah), was appointed by Musheer-ul-Mulk (Prime Minister) of Hyderabad) in 1207 H.

During his time there was a great scarcity in Beder (owing to an insufficient fall of rain for three years) so much

so that Jawari (the chief food of the poor) was selling at four seers or 8lbs. per rupee, and later on, all the grain sellers ran out of their supplies. When Amin-ul-Mulk saw how the poor were suffering from want of food, he opened out all the fort granaries, sat at the Sharza Darvaza, and sold the grain himself to them.

After having held the post of fort-keeper for upwards of three years, he was dismissed in the year 1209 H. by Nizam Ali Khan.

Noor Mahomed Khan, 22nd Killadar.—The twenty-second fort-keeper of Beder was Noor Mahomed Khan, who was appointed by Musheer-ul-Mulk in 1209 H. He remained at Hyderabad, but sent his deputy Zakir-ud-din Khan to manage the affairs of the fort of Beder. Zakir-ud-din opened out an old gateway, which is situated to the east of the fort, removed the shutters from the Sharza Darvaza, and had them fixed to the one he had thrown open. The deputy little knew what was in store for him because shortly afterwards Narsing Khan (Hazari) collected a few followers and drove Rukh-nud-din out of the fort.

Directly news reached Musheer-ul-mulk (Prime Minister) about Narsing Khan's conduct he despatched an army of 1,000 men under the command of Monsieur Raymond and had Narsing Khan turned out of the fort. Monsieur Raymond remained with his army at Beder for about two months, and then went back to Hyderabad.

Munim Khan Bahadur, 23rd Killadar.—The twenty-third fort-keeper of Beder was Munim Khan Bahadur,

who obtained his appoinment at the hands of Musheer-ul-Mulk in 1210 H.

He was exceedingly kind and good to the ryots of the place in that he gave them the large sum of 50,000 Rs. to restore their houses, which were almost in ruins, owing to the late disturbances.

Munim Khan Bahadur after having held this appointment for only five months, died of paralysis at Beder in 1210 H.

His remains were interred near Mooltani Padshah's Dargah.

Mirza Hussani Beg, 24th Killadar.—The twenty-fourth fort-keeper was Mirza Hussani Beg, who obtained his appointment in 1210 H, but as he was unable to conduct the work himself at Beder, owing to press of other work at Hyderabad, sent his deputy Khan Jehan Khan instead.

He utilized the hasham establishment (gate-keepers) which at this time numbered 1,000 men, for doing sentinel duty on the fort ramparts and paid them regularly every month, whereas hitherto they used to be paid very irregularly. He also set aside some men to do patrol duty, and had all the waste land within the fort cultivated.

He had a number of fruit trees planted in Ali Bagh (where the Tolice Superintendent at present holds his office and rebuilt several ruined houses in it. It was his intention to have four large reservoirs built, but not having had sufficient funds to carry out his plans, had only one built near Mooltani Padshah's Dargah, which was daily filled with water by pipes from an adjoining well.

The high archway directly opposite Mooltani Padshah's Dargah was also built by him.

Ekhtaz Jung, 25th Killadar.—When Ekhtaz Jung was appointed fort-keeper of Beder in 1213 H. at Hyderabad he sent his deputy Meer Ussud Ali Khan to Beder to take charge of the fort from Khan Jehan Khan, the deputy of Mirza Hussani Beg.

When Khan Jehan Khan, heard that Meer Ussud Ali Khan had come from Hyderabad to take charge of the fort from him, he had all the gates shut for ten days, during which time he was engaged in checking the accounts of the fort during his deputyship, so that when he handed over charge there might be no discrepancies whatever. After the ten days had expired, he had all the gates opened out, and handed over charge to Meer Ussud Ah Khan, and then left for Hyderabad.

He was deputy at Beder for three years.

Meer Ussud Ali Khan after having held the post of deputy at Beder for two years, went away to Hyderabad.

Nawab Meer Asad Ali Khan Bahadur, 26th Killadar.—The twenty-sixth fort-keeper of Beder, Nawab Meer Asad Ali Khan Bahadur, was appointed in the year 1215 H.

The first step he took was to reduce the expenditure of the hasham department (gate keepers) from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 1,500.

News having reached the capital (Hyderabad) in 1217 H. that Rajah Holkar was about to invade the Deccan, Musheer-ul-Mulk (Prime Minister) at once issued orders to Nawab Meer Asud Ali Khan Bahadur to have his force

increased, and to make the other necessary arrangements in the fort.

He accordingly had the Hasham department increased to 1,000 men (at a cost of Rs. 7,000,) bought 12,400 Rs. worth of grain and had it stored up in the Fort granaries. When the Hasham Javans troubled him for their arrears of pay he pacified them by giving grain instead, and so got rid of all the grain he had stored up in the fort granaries.

In 1218 H. Nawab Meer Asad Ali Khan Bahadur after having appointed his younger brother Thorab Ali Khan as deputy went to Hyderabad. Meer Thorab Ali Khan after having held the post of deputy for three years was dismissed in 1221 H. when he went away to Hyderabad, and was succeeded by Hamed Ali Khan who held the post of deputy till the year 1223 H, after which he retired to Chidgopa.

Hamed Ali Khan was succeeded by Buldeo Rai as deputy of the fort of Beder in 1223 H, and after having held this post till 1235 H, went away to Hyderabad.

Syed Kalil-ul-la-Khan, 27th Killadar.—The twenty-seventh fort-keeper of Beder was Syed Kalil-ul-la-Khan, who obtained his appointment in 1235 H.

He was dismissed in the year 1244 H, after which he went away to Hyderabad.

Nuzzur Bahadur, 28th Killadar.—The twenty-eighth fort-keeper of Beder, Nuzzur Bahadur was appointed in 1244 H. He was rather unfortunate during his office, in that the very year he was appointed, several prisoners, (which were sent to the fort by the British Govern-

ment for safe custody) broke away and made their escape, for which act of negligence he was fined Rs. 2,000. At the time the prisoners made their escape from the fort, Nuzzur Bahadur was at the Khanapur Jathrah (fair) taking part in the festivities.

Again in 1253 H. some more prisoners made their escape from the fort of Beder.

Nuzzur Bahadur was dismissed in the year 1254 H, after having held the post of fort-keeper for ten years.

Abdullah-bin-ali, 29th Killadar.—The twenty-ninth and last fort-keeper of Beder was Abdullah-bin-ali, who received his appointment at the hands of Chundoo Lall (Prime Minister of Hyderabad) in 1254 H, but being unable to attend to the work himself sent his deputy Kaiem Khan to Beder, to manage the affairs of the fort.

He after having held the post of deputy till the year 1262 H, committed suicide.

Kaiem Khan was succeeded by Davur Ali, who after having held the post of deputy for a short time was removed in the year 1262 H, by Rajah Ram Baksh (son of Chundoo Lall).

On the death of Chundoo Lall, (Prime Minister) of Hyderabad in the year 1262 H, his son Rajah Ram Baksh became Prime Minister, had Abdullah-bin-Ali removed from the fort-keepership of Beder, and completely did away with that post.

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Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018